

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Drilling for gold
Dentists are top earners
but do they abuse the
system to make money?
Part 2 of
The Nation's Teeth

Another ball game
The pressure is
increasing for rugby to
go professional. And why
isn't it in the Olympics?

Balancing act
The race is on for
President Reagan and
Mrs Thatcher to succeed
with their financial
strategies. But who
is winning?

Rule of the ancients
Italy could soon have
a new leader who
is more than 90
years old

Portfolio

The Time Portfolio competition
prize of £2,000 was won
yesterday by Mrs Julia Maling,
who lives in Billerica,
Essex. Portfolio list, page 20;
how to play, Information
service, back page.

Tebbit well after hip operation

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary
of State for Trade and Industry,
was "very well" at Stoke
Mandeville Hospital, Bucks,
after a minor operation
on his left hip, injured in
the Brighton bombing.

Leading article, page 11

Beach search for chemicals

West Country coastguards are
to search beaches today for blue
plastic drums containing
dangerous chemicals, after 10
were washed ashore at Bridport,
Dorset. A workman burnt his
hand when clearing them up.

BMA approval

As the American baby with a
transplanted baboon's heart was
doing well in a California
hospital, the British Medical
Association said such an operation
would be acceptable in
Britain.

US row, page 6

Jury guarded

A police guard was mounted for
the Central Criminal Court jury
trying three Londoners accused
of taking part in the £26m
Brinks Mat bullion robbery.

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Nicaragua doubt

Nicaragua's two main opposi-
tion parties remain divided
over whether to take part in
Sunday's general election. Only
four parties are certain to run
against the Sandinistas.

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Legal reforms

An independent report has
recommended wide-ranging
reforms to improve the Law
Society's running of the £300m
a year legal aid scheme.

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Car strike call

Leaders of 28,000 Austin Rover
car workers have rejected an
improved pay offer and urged
members to strike from next
Monday.

Page 2

Close resigns

Brian Close resigned as chair-
man of Yorkshire's cricket sub-
committee, consigning the
county to further strife over the
Geoffrey Boycott saga.

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Letters on Ethiopia, from Dr
Keith Griffin, and others; war
tributes, from Professor
Michael Howard.

Leading articles: Libyan con-
nection; Mr Tebbit's privacy
Features, pages 8, 10, 15
Gaddafi and the unions: a
propaganda victory for the
GLC; West Germany's acid
raid crusade; Philip Norman
contributes some entirely un-
processed words. Spectrum:
own goals - soccer in decline.
Fashion: Dutch master strokes
Obituary, page 12
Mr John Hill, Dr Carl F. Cori,
Mr Marcel Brion

North Kent, pages 16-19.
Tomorrow, the Queen visits
one of the most populous
regions of Kent. Today, a
Special Report looks at its
successes - and its problems.
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Coal board to offer 'take it or leave it' ultimatum

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons that the Nacods agreement was the one which any pits settlement would be reached.

The Government is spearheading a campaign to isolate Mr Arthur Scargill from the Labour movement using the Libyan disclosures as its main weapon.

Conflicting statements by the coal board and Mr Peter Walker led to confusion on whether Mr Michael Eaton was still personal adviser to the coal board chairman.

Coal board officials in the regions expressed anger and dismay over what they saw as the board's leadership lurching disastrously from one mistake to another.

Exports to Libya have returned to a high level - £21.6m in August - after a three-month drop following the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.

Labour MPs called for a boycott of Price Waterhouse, the accountants who are involved in the sequestration of the miners' union's assets.

Confusion on role of MacGregor adviser

By Anthony Bevins and David Felton

Miners' leaders will tomorrow be given a "take it or leave it" ultimatum by the National Coal Board that the only basis for a settlement of the eight-months dispute is last week's deal which averted the threatened pit deputies' strike.

The hardening of the Government's attitude supported pessimistic union predictions that the strike would run through the winter, possibly until March, and dashed TUC hopes of an agreement from tomorrow's talks at the offices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said during Commons exchanges: "The agreement that has been made with MacGos is a fair and reasonable agreement. That is the one on which agreement will be reached, if it is reached at all."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, suggested that there should be no changes in the Nacods deal, "there should be no question of negotiation, clarification or perhaps, but no more negotiation" to which Mr Walker replied, to loud Conservative cheers: "I agree."

The Government's position was outlined after a day of conflicting statements from the coal board and Whitehall on the role of Mr Michael Eaton, the recently-appointed personal adviser to Mr Ian MacGregor, the coal board chairman.

A coal board statement, issued at lunch-time, said: "The chairman has decided in the view of the sensational developments over the weekend, which has changed the whole situation, all Mr Eaton's appointments with the press will not now go ahead."

That immediately provoked speculation that either Mr Eaton was being relieved of his new duties or that it was a preliminary move by the board before an announcement that it was not prepared to attend Acas talks with leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, in protest at the "Libyan connection".

There were hurried consultations between senior coal



Mr Eaton: Engagements cancelled.

board officials and Mr Walker which resulted in a second statement being issued, this time by Mr Eaton, saying: "The board have been invited to meet Acas early on Wednesday as they have agreed. In the light of those forthcoming talks, the board will not make any statements until these discussions. I have therefore cancelled my engagements with the media for the next few years."

The coal board machinations caused consternation within Whitehall and even within the board's London headquarters because it was felt that the confusion over Mr Eaton had successfully diverted the media spotlight away from the Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, and the fierce over the union's contacts with the Libyan regime.

Mr Walker told MPs that he was aware of the rumours circulating about Mr Eaton and had contacted the board. "I can confirm that Mr Eaton happily remains at his duties and very much agrees with the decision to cancel certain press engagements today whilst they examine the situation following disclosures over the weekend."

It is thought that one of his engagements that Mr Eaton had planned today with industrial correspondents would have been inopportune in view of the Acas talks. The Acas talks will start from the basis of papers submitted by the union and the board.

Continued on back page, col 6

Tory aim to isolate Scargill over Libya

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The full force of government efforts to isolate Mr Arthur Scargill from the TUC and Labour leadership, from the NUM colleagues and from the striking miners, was brought to bear by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Walker's main weapon was the weekend disclosure of high-level links between the Scargill leadership and Colonel Gaddafi's Libyan regime.

But he also raised the question of Mr Scargill's own political motivation for pursuing the strike.

Mr Walker said that the British people were very suspicious of a leader who refused a strike ballot and who had said that he wanted to overthrow the democratic system. "The latest disclosures," he said, "certainly arouse deep suspicions."

Mr Walker said that some NUM leaders had been caught negotiating with people who "provide funds for terrorist activities throughout Europe", and that while Mr Scargill sought the support of trades unions in Libya he opposed Polish Solidarity because he said it wanted to overthrow a socialist state.

Yet Mr Walker said, there was no trade union movement in Libya and there was no right to strike.

But he also contrasted Mr Scargill's intransigence with Nacods decision to accept an agreement, and said that the only reason Mr Scargill was sticking to his demand for no pit closures was "to keep the conflict going."

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the mining community, have damaged the Labour Party and damaged the TUC, and that is the reality of this strike.

Philip Webster writes: The tensions of the coal dispute boiled over in the Commons yesterday when Mr Jack Drommond, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, had to intervene to cool an angry dispute between two colleagues.

The flare up came during questions to energy ministers as Mr Allan Rogers, MP for Rhondda, claimed that three working collieries in Nottinghamshire would be closed when the strike ended if Mr Ian MacGregor's formula was put into action, and referred to the working miners as "scabs."

At that Mr Don Concannon, MP for Mansfield, sitting directly behind Mr Rogers, was seen to remonstrate with him. According to Mr Rogers, Mr Concannon said he did not want to talk about his members like that and threatened to "thump" him. Mr Rogers retorted to the 6ft 4in Mr Concannon: "You might be big enough, but you are not good enough."

Mr Rogers said later: "I see working miners as working against the interest of miners in my area."

Continued on back page, col 4



Sad farewell: The Princess of Wales attending a memorial service yesterday for her uncle, Lord Fermoy, her first public engagement since Prince Henry's birth.

Report, page 12

Freeze settlements, Howe urges Israel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, made a strong appeal last night to Israel's new government of national unity to freeze all settlement - building - in the occupied West Bank as a means of helping to revive the "deadlocked peace process in the Middle East."

Speaking at a state dinner, Sir Geoffrey also welcomed the new Government's recently declared intention to ease restrictions on the Palestinians living under military rule and called on the liberalization process to be "developed and broadened."

So far it has included permission for the Arabs to run their first commercial bank since the region was conquered in 1967, a cutback in Israeli censorship and the lifting of an earlier ban on a number of Palestinian industrial projects.

Both Sir Geoffrey and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, referred to the

recent improvement in Anglo-Israeli relations. Earlier in the day, Mr Shamir called on Britain to end its arms embargo imposed after the 1982 Lebanon invasion and to legislate against the Arab boycott.

Last night, Sir Geoffrey reiterated the EEC's call for an acceptance by all of Israel's right to a secure existence to be matched by an acceptance by all of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. This latter demand has been flatly rejected by this, as by the previous Israeli administration.

The Foreign Secretary - whose trip has been judged a success by officials of both Governments - emphasized the crucial role of the US in achieving a Middle East peace. "I urge both sides not to let slip again any opportunity for progress towards peace after the American elections on November 6," he said.

Press meeting, page 5

Opec agrees on cut in oil output

From David Young, Geneva

Ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries last night agreed to cut their total oil output by 1.5 million barrels a day in an effort to bolster sagging prices.

After announcing their agreement, the ministers went into closed session to decide how to spread the cuts among the 13 member nations. Present Opec production is 17.5 million barrels a day.

Opec's president, Dr Sobroto of Indonesia, stated that the cut in output would be temporary. "After a couple of months spot prices will firm up to official prices (of \$29 a barrel)," he said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, is expected to bear the brunt of the output reduction. However, it is expected to resist pressure to make cuts of the size other members have pressed for.

Details, page 21

British embassies may close in £20m Foreign Office cuts

By Frances Gibb

A number of Britain's embassies and consulates abroad face closure to help meet a proposed cut of £20m in the Foreign Office public expenditure budget for next year.

The Foreign Office is one of several departments that will be forced to accept cuts in the latest and increasingly bitter round of fighting between ministers and the Treasury.

Although a final decision will be made by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, the department's officials are expected to press for cuts in the diplomatic missions as the first and least politically sensitive option.

The most likely targets are most embassies in the South Pacific, some in Latin America and possibly some in old French West Africa. A number of consulates in major cities in Europe and elsewhere would be likely to close.

Top of the list of embassies that could be closed are Kinabati (formerly Gilbert Islands); Tuvalu (formerly Ellis Islands); Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides); Western Samoa and possibly Tonga. In Latin

America, likely targets include Bolivia, Paraguay and Ecuador, and in Africa, Togo.

In addition, a number of consulates throughout the developed world would be at risk, in line with the gradual reduction in their number over the past 20 years. A final Cabinet decision is expected on November 8.

The cut for the Foreign Office would be on its present £583m budget, which is shared by the home and diplomatic services and provides grants in aid to the BBC and the British Council, and subscriptions to international organizations.

Officials believe that any cut in the budget of the BBC and British Council would be politically unacceptable and not worth the return. The only other option is a cut in the £1,000m budget for grants-in-aid administered by the Ministry for Overseas Development.

This is split 59 per cent in aid by the Government direct to other Governments and 41 per cent in aid to organizations such as the EEC and the United Nations.

But the government-to-government aid is tied in with

reciprocal agreements and contracts for British industry, while grants through the EEC also bring a spin-off for trade beyond their cost.

The Treasury is pressing for cuts worth £2,500m in next year's Whitehall spending to meet a spending target of £131,600m. Departments such as the Foreign Office are also having to shoulder increased demands imposed by unemployment benefit.

The number of consulates has been cut from 128 in 1965 to 67. Independent missions - High Commissions and embassies - have risen in number from 111 in 1968 to 131.

In 1977 a report by the Central Policy Review Staff recommended a reduction in the size of missions in general and the closure of some 20 British embassies and High Commissions and at least 35 subordinate posts, replacing them with other forms of representation.

But a White Paper published in 1978 argued against the closure of overseas missions although it agreed there was room for economies.

Soaring crime forces up insurance rates

By Richard Thomson

Rising crime has forced Prudential Assurance, Britain's largest household contents insurer, to announce swinging increases of between 50 and 100 per cent on the cost of many of its house contents policies.

The move will almost certainly encourage other insurers, most of whom have also been hit by crime losses, to raise their premium rates.

The Prudential's increases will fall mainly on the inner city areas of London, Manchester, Glasgow and Liverpool, affecting 220,000 households. Perhaps surprisingly, Birmingham is not included.

The Prudential has 3 million house insurance policy holders. For most of these affected, the increase is likely to mean an extra cost of £2 per 1,000 sum insured on a standard indemnity policy and £7.50 more per £1,000 on a new-for-old policy.

Announcing the changes, Mr John Powell, an assistant general manager, blamed the increase on the rising rate of theft which was reaching "epidemic proportions."

A higher rate of theft claims has led to a loss of £6m on the Prudential's home contents insurance business for the first half of this year. In some areas, Mr Powell said, the company was paying out 3m in claims for

Cost of £13,000 reinstatement policy in high-risk areas

	Current	New
Inner London	£80	£195
Liverpool	£80	£195
Glasgow	£78	£195
Manchester	£66	£195

every £1 it received in premiums. By far the highest rate of claims came from inner cities.

The Prudential has created a new "band 8" high-risk category for pricing its policies for these areas. The biggest increase is likely to fall on policyholders in Manchester who will be re-rated from band

6 to band 8. On a reinstatement policy of £13,000, for example, the cost for someone in Manchester will rise from £66 to £195. For a similar policyholder in inner London the cost rises from £80 to £195.

The increases, which take effect from January 1, make the Prudential the most expensive house contents insurer.

About 12 per cent of the Prudential's clients in areas less troubled by crime such as East Anglia and the West country, are to get price reductions of between 17 and 20 per cent. Customers in high-risk areas who exclude theft from their cover will receive a reduction of 40 per cent on their premium.

Ethiopia accepts new aid package

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government is greatly increasing its operation to help the distribution of food in Ethiopia after criticism of its original offer by Ethiopian officials.

Two RAF Hercules transport planes, with a back-up team of between 50 and 100 RAF personnel, are to leave Britain shortly and will operate for three months, rather than one month as originally planned.

The aircraft will take out to Ethiopia 10 dumper trucks, an unspecified number of Land-Rovers, drilling machines, spare parts, and medical supplies. These are all items asked for by Mr Desmin Woldemariam, the head of Ethiopia's relief and rehabilitation commission, when he met Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, on Saturday.

The new offer was made yesterday during a frantic day of consultations and was understood by ministers last night to have been accepted in principle by Addis Ababa.

Two senior RAF officers were flying out to Ethiopia last night on a reconnaissance mission to check on the availability of fuel, accommodation, and other facilities.

Depending on their report and the final agreement of the Ethiopians, the aircraft will leave either today or tomorrow. Ministers were unsure last night where the RAF operating station would be located. Both Addis and Djibouti are considered as possibilities.

The improved offer of help after Mr Giorgis's complaint, accepted by ministers, that the idea of sending two Hercules for a month was too short for them to have any real impact.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has been deeply involved in the discussions. During the weekend, she was in frequent telephone contact with ministers.

Mr Raison said last night: "Things are moving. I am hopeful that the difficulties about the Hercules aircraft will be unblocked and that they will be able to go out soon. They will do work of great value, taking out much-needed goods and especially helping to solve internal transport problems."

The Overseas Development Administration is also hoping to charter the third aircraft, and perhaps a fourth, to take out equipment and supplies.

The agreement over the RAF's Hercules should clear the way for a number of flights planned by private individuals and organizations (David Cross writes).

The first of these, a British Airways Tristar, is due to leave Heathrow tomorrow with food and blankets on board. Later in the week two Boeing 707s from Gatwick will leave with grain and other emergency supplies.

Offers of other aircraft are Continued on back page, col 1

GARRARD
The Crown Jewellers

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Fairer and more efficient legal aid scheme is urged

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Wide-ranging reforms of the Law Society's running of the legal aid scheme, costing £300m a year, by making it fairer and more efficient were urged in an independent report yesterday.

Commissioned jointly by the Law Society and the Lord Chancellor's Department, the report says that the latter should give the society greater flexibility in its running of the scheme.

There should be less intervention by the Lord Chancellor's Department over day-to-day decisions and the responsibilities of the society should be clarified and strengthened.

The report, commissioned from the management consultants Coopers and Lybrand, outlines a new framework for the administration of legal aid which, if implemented, would produce a net saving of £18m in the present £18m administrative bill.

The proposed measures should also meet some of the complaints from solicitors and the public about the delays in the granting of legal aid, the inconsistencies in approach from one part of the country to another and the delays in payment of solicitors' bills.

Welcoming the report, Mr David Edwards, deputy secretary of the Law Society and in charge of the legal aid scheme, said that the scheme would be easier to run if freed from some of the present constraints.

At present all relatively small decisions had to be referred to the Lord Chancellor's Department.

port, involving a "disproportionate amount of discussion" and inevitable delay.

The report proposes increasing the society's control over its 15 area legal aid committees, making them more accountable to the central Legal Aid Committee.

That, Mr Edwards said, would reduce the independence of area secretaries and help to iron out discrepancies which made it easier, for instance, to obtain legal aid in south rather than north-east London.

The three-volume report, the first comprehensive review of the scheme's administration since 1971, has been carried out over a year at a cost of £200,000.

The controversial issue of whether the Law Society is the appropriate body to run the scheme was not part of the review. That is being considered as part of another review just begun, also by Coopers.

But yesterday Mr Charles Everett, a Lord Chancellor's Department official, said that there were no plans to "take legal aid away from the Law Society".

Mr Charles Ely, chairman of the Legal Aid Committee, said that the broad thrust of the report was acceptable and it would now be consulting the profession on specific details. It would then be the society's task to persuade the Lord Chancellor's Department that the changes were cost-effective.

Management Secretary of Legal Aid Administration, Lord Chancellor's Department, Neville House, Page Street, London SW1, £10 a volume.

Salmonella outbreak in Leeds jail

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent.

Twenty prisoners were in hospital yesterday after an outbreak of salmonella poisoning at Armley Prison, Leeds, 10 miles from the venue of the previous outbreak which killed 19 people.

Four of the cases at Leeds have been confirmed and the men who are on remand, put in isolation. Tests have been conducted on another 28 men, who were said to be suffering similar symptoms and were kept in isolation in another part of the hospital.

Last night the four were said to be giving no cause for concern and tests on 13 of the others have proved negative. Twelve men have been returned to their normal location and one retained for an unrelated cause.

Leeds is one of the most overcrowded prisons in the country. Officially expected to hold 634 inmates, it has 1,217. The previous outbreak was at Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield.

But Mr Bryan Wyatt, acting governor at Leeds, said the outbreak at the prison could not be compounded in any way with the one at Stanley Royd. "People at Stanley Royd who were affected were old and infirm. Our people are young and fit."

Health officials had examined the kitchen at the jail and were satisfied it was free of salmonella infection. He said remand prisoners could receive food from outside and it could be difficult to trace exactly where infection came from. One of the four may have been a carer and brought the infection into the prison with him, Mr Wyatt said.

£80m trade won for Scotland

By a Staff Reporter

More heavy investment in Scottish high technology industries creating hundreds of new jobs was disclosed yesterday by the Scottish Development Agency. Dr George Matheson, chief executive of the SDA, announced at an electronics exhibition in Amsterdam that a target of £30m investment announced in June had been far outstripped.

He said that deals had been negotiated giving planned investment of almost £80m which would create more than 600 direct jobs. He said the figure could prove to be conservative.

The increase resulted from the £1,000m or more inward investment won by Locate in Scotland, an arm of the agency, since it was formed three years ago. The successful deal made "Silicon Glen" the electronics capital of Europe, Dr Matheson said.

Police rebuffed

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, yesterday refused a request from a police deputation that the Government should resist the "Scarman amendment" to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill making racially discriminatory behaviour by the police a disciplinary offence.

Workers at Austin Rover urged to strike

By Our Labour Correspondent

The motor industry moved further towards conflict yesterday after leaders of 28,000 Austin Rover car workers rejected an improved pay offer and urged their members to strike from Monday.

Mass meetings this week throughout the company will decide whether workers will walk out. Union negotiators have a strike mandate for the previous offer of about 9 per cent spread over two years. An extra 50p a week during the next 12 months and an extra £1 for the year after it was put on the table yesterday.

More than 7,000 production men at Jaguar are due to down tools on Thursday in support of a £25 a week pay rise.

The new Austin Rover offer was made in seven hours of talks yesterday. A strike would cost the company about £12m a day in lost production.

After the negotiations yesterday Mr George Wemyss, chief union negotiator, said: "We have advised management that the offer is totally unacceptable." The unions have demanded 20 per cent in a one-year deal to replace the present two-year agreement, which runs out on November 1.

The company has said that it will consider legal action if a strike goes ahead without a ballot.

Mr Norman Haslam, company negotiator, said Austin Rover was also offering to include an extra £1.50p a week from bonuses into the wages structure and to increase sick pay.

German sales drive

Austin Rover expects to double car sales in West Germany next year because of a link-up with the Aldi Mass hypermarket chain (Our Motorist Correspondent writes).

Mass plans to sell 4,000 cars in its first full year. Last year, Austin Rover sold that number in the whole of West Germany.

The move is being monitored by European car makers, which have rejected similar deals because of opposition from traditional dealers.

The deal was easier for Austin Rover because its existing dealer network in Germany almost collapsed because of strike-interrupted deliveries from Britain and the poor quality and outdated model range previously on offer.

At the opening of the largest Austin Rover Mass showroom, near Frankfurt, yesterday, Mr Trevor Taylor, Austin Rover sales chief, said he was negotiating with a British supermarket group but was not optimistic.

Nissan jobs flood

More than 1,000 British production and engineering experts have applied for jobs at the £30m Nissan car assembly factory to be built at Washington, Tyne and Wear - but less than 15 will be successful. (Our Industrial Correspondent writes).

The Japanese company's recruitment advisers, HAY MSL, said yesterday that a "very strong" short list of 70 applicants had been compiled. Salaries were comparable with the rest of the car industry, believed to be in the £14,000-£20,000 range.

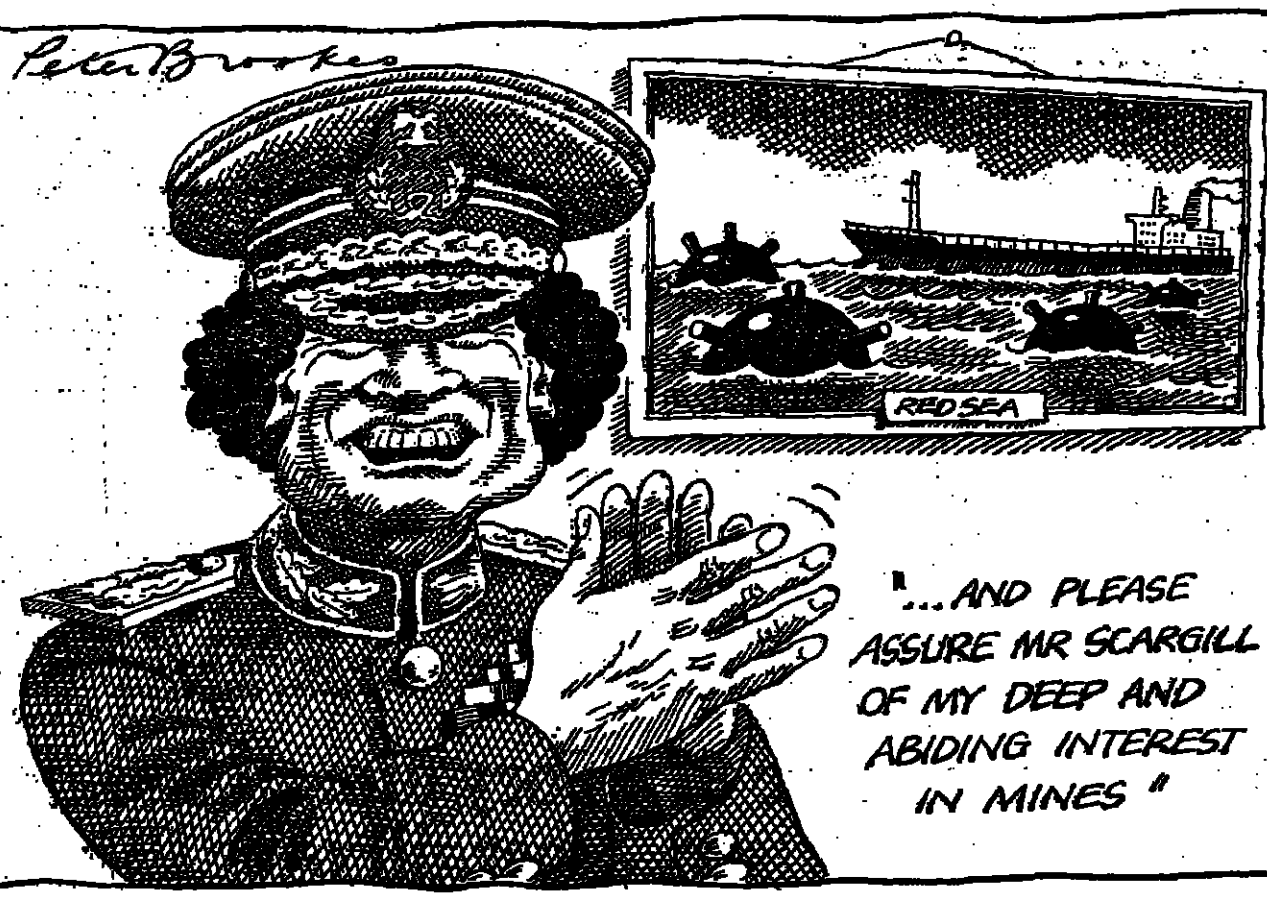
Coal board officials in Staffordshire claimed that 18 miners returned to work yesterday for the first time since the dispute began. The total number of men reporting for work in the country yesterday was 3,452, a record attendance for a Monday.

The NCB's western area, which covers Staffordshire, Lancashire, North Wales and

near Rugby, urged miners to vote with their feet and return to work.

Libya repeated its strong support for the striking miners yesterday and said it would stand by them "until they are liberated and their demands are met".

A statement issued by Jam, the official Libyan news agency, said that the "fabricated



British exports to Libya at high level

By John Lawless

That deal would have been worth £80m, but a serious decline in oil revenues has caused the regime of Colonel Gaddafi to postpone several big projects.

The Libyans could come back to Wemyss to say that they want to revive the plea, but then British companies might not be allowed to do business with Libya.

Britain is effectively operating a ban on new business with Libya, through the government insurance agency, the Export Credits Guarantee Department. However, an official said yesterday that a decision not to give new credits for short-term business, taken in May, was not done for political reasons.

One of the motions notes that Mr Jeffrey Bowman, the senior partner of Price Waterhouse, has said privately that the proposed merger will not take place unless partners in both firms in the UK, USA and Australia vote positively for the proposal.

In fact Mr Bowman said in a personal note to partners last month that a vote of partners in London next month would require 90 per cent support.

The proposed merger would establish the firm as world leaders in the profession, with joint revenues of more than £2,400m.

But Mr Bowman also said: "From the time of the announcement that we are having merger talks until the date of consummation and for some

British exports to Libya

	£m
1979	228
1980	228
1981	228
1982	228
1983	228

British two-way trade with Libya in 1984

	Exports	Imports
Jan	20.4	14.2
Feb	18.7	3.5
March	19.4	0.8
April	24.7	24.9
May	18.3	11.1
June	17.1	8.8
July	14.1	20.8
Aug	21.6	13.7

Coal board claims record numbers return to work

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The NCB's western area, which covers Staffordshire, Lancashire, North Wales and

Demand to boycott Price Waterhouse

By Anthony Bevan, Political Correspondent

A boycott of Price Waterhouse was called for by Labour MPs last night as retaliation against the firm's involvement in the sequestration of NUM assets.

The MPs put down three Commons motions on the firm, saying that all unions should withdraw business from the auditor and accountancy partnership and suggesting that they were "unfit" to act for any company.

But the MPs also exploited Price Waterhouse's vulnerability in the wake of last month's announcement that they were pursuing discussions with Deloitte Haskins and Bell with a view to worldwide "mega-merger".

One motion said that leading firms of accountants should be required to publish annual accounts. Another said that Mr Bowman received a salary of £187,000 in 1982-83.

The National Working Miners' Committee is seeking a High Court ruling to make individual members of the NUM executive responsible for payment of the £200,000 cost of court fine imposed on the union by Mr Justice Nicholls (Craig Seton writes).

Representatives of working miners decided to take out writs claiming that while the union was not itself in contempt of court, its executive members were in continuing to rule that the miners' strike was official, in spite of a High Court ruling to the contrary.

Eleven police officers are to face an inquiry and possible charges over allegations that they damaged striking miners' cars in Derbyshire last week. A senior detective has been appointed to investigate the claims and report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

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Legislation sought 'to give deaf a fair deal'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Only legislation to outlaw discrimination against the deaf can ensure that they receive equal choice, opportunity, and treatment, the British Deaf Association said yesterday.

Launching a campaign for such legislation, the association said that discrimination started at school, continued through further a higher education, affected job prospects and limited access to the telephone and most television programmes.

A report calling for changes in the law and backed by the all-party disability group of the Commons was published yesterday.

It says deaf school-leavers have an average reading age of 8½, partly because of a prejudice against using total communication with British Sign Language, which it wants the Government officially to recognize.

Teacher training regulations discriminate against deaf taught by deaf teachers, and few education authorities provide extra help for further education.

Television companies adapt only 2 per cent of programmes for the deaf, the report says, and deaf people are often excluded from using deaf communication terminals on the telephone system.

Blind to lose £1

Thousands of the poorest blind people will lose up to £1 a week in supplementary benefit from the end of next month, the Royal National Institute for the Blind said yesterday.

The money will be lost through an increase in deductions made to people on the long-term rate supplementary benefit who receive additional allowances for items such as diet, laundry and heating.

About 25,000 of the elderly visually handicapped will lose up to £1 and 7,000 will lose up to 50p, the institute said.

The move, which will save the Government £86m a year, will leave almost two million people on supplementary benefit worse off in real terms from November 26.

Catch 22 casts Western Islanders on the rocks

By Ronald Faux

As special cases go, the plight of the Western Isles is seen as extra special in the remote, thinly populated islands where costs are high, the yield from traditional industry is depressingly low, and reliance on government grants is heavy.

A recent appeal by Comhairle nan Eilean, the islands' council, for more sympathetic attention from the Government and the council's quaintly naive suggestion that fellow authorities in Scotland should give a little of their own rate support grant to help is as close to desperation as the underdevelopment of the islands have reached.

The council is one of three all-purpose Scottish islands

authorities set up in 1975. It represents the 31,000 people living on a 150-mile string of Outer Hebridean islands between Lewis and Barra.

Unlike the other two authorities, Shetland and Orkney, which were already established and merely changed their names on reorganization, Comhairle nan Eilean was a wholly new authority.

More significantly, the Western Isles did not have the benefit of being a focal point for the oil industry. Instead, it inherited a legacy of deprivation, among the worst in Europe, with woefully inadequate housing, primary schools that lacked lavatories or running water and a 700-year-old

network of largely single track roads. The islands lacked nursery schools, provision for the usually handicapped and sheltered housing.

Since the council started work, it has made progress at consolidating the small, Gaelic-speaking communities and helping the traditional industries of fishing and weaving to a degree that the century-long decline in population was halted.

Mr Alexander Matheson, convener of the council, sees the crisis looming in the council's affairs not because, as elsewhere, spending has been outrageously beyond government guidelines, but because the council simply cannot

afford to spend at the rate that even matches the guidelines. Neither can it afford to borrow to a level agreed by the government because it would not have the income to service the loan. Catch 22 has arrived in the Outer Hebrides.

"The fact is, we have the lowest rating base in Scotland so that 85 per cent of our income comes from central government," Mr Matheson said. "Because the council receives proportionately more rate support grant than any local authority in Scotland it is all the more vulnerable to cuts in grant and since the council was formed, these have amounted to a 20 per cent fall."

Mystery portrait for sale

By Geraldine Newman

A family portrait of exceptional charm, painted in about 1742 for the London home of Burkat Shudi, one of Europe's leading harpsichord makers, comes for sale at Sotheby's on December 12 direct from his descendants. The picture shows Shudi, his wife, two children, their cat and their harpsichord and is expected to fetch about £150,000 and £200,000.

It has already been offered to the National Portrait Gallery, who said that they would be likely to buy it but could not afford the asking price. It is being sold on behalf of the Broadwood Trust, a charity, which means that none of the tax advantages of a private treaty sale in this case. The Portrait Gallery, if they wanted the picture, would have to pay the full market price.

Burkat Shudi's daughter Barbara married John Broadwood, who was already working for her father. The name of the firm was changed to John



A detail from the portrait of Burkat Shudi and his family by an unidentified artist

Broadwood and Sons in 1803 and became one of the world's leading piano makers.

Burkat Shudi came to London from Switzerland in 1718 and made special harpsichords for Mozart, Haydn and Handel, the last being a close friend. He was patronized by the Royal Family and the harpsichord in the picture may be the instrument that he made for Frederick, Prince of Wales, though it

now has a plain stand rather than the elaborate one shown in the picture. A very good artist was clearly at work in England but all documentation of his life and work is apparently lost. Sotheby's have catalogued the painting as "Italian School, circa 1742" and point out that a portrait of an English couple in a garden at the Getty Museum, London, is almost certainly by the same hand.

Love affairs between school pupils and their teachers are more common than in their parents' days, possibly because of earlier maturity and more informal staff-pupil relations, the secretary of the National Teachers' said yesterday.

"I suppose I get to hear of not more than half a dozen cases a year from members. It is not a major matter for concern," Mr David Hart said.

Mr Hart was commenting on an article in *The Times Educational Supplement* which suggested that pupil-teacher affairs were more common than people were aware.

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Teacher-pupil affairs more common

By Patricia Clough

Love affairs between school pupils and their teachers are more common than in their parents' days, possibly because of earlier maturity and more informal staff-pupil relations, the secretary of the National Teachers' said yesterday.

"I suppose I get to hear of not more than half a dozen cases a year from members. It is not a major matter for concern," Mr David Hart said.

Mr Hart was commenting on an article in *The Times Educational Supplement* which suggested that pupil-teacher affairs were more common than people were aware.

It said that while cases

which make the headlines or reach the ears of chief education officers can probably be counted in tens a year, inquiries suggest that affairs are far more frequent than supposed.

Most cases, it said, never become public. Head teachers prefer to avoid scandal and the involvement of governors or education authorities, or sometimes visits from the police. Often the teachers are rebuked or quietly offered a transfer to another school.

Sometimes such affairs end with marriage: one school in Somerset has three teachers who married pupils, and one of

Newspaper group abandons NGA claim

By Robin Clouston

News International yesterday dropped its claim for damages against the National Graphical Association (NGA).

The company, which owns *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *News of the World*, joined the management of *The Observer* in deciding not to proceed with litigation over a 48-hour stoppage last November resulting from the Messenger newspaper group dispute.

Mr Robert Maxwell, proprietor of the Mirror group, said at the weekend that his company would refuse to accept any damages from the action. News International has also decided to withdraw from negotiations conducted by the National Publishers Association (NPA) and has called on national officers of print unions to start company talks. The future of the association is now in doubt.

The NPA has refused to negotiate on a 12 per cent pay claim made last November by the Fleet Street staff. The publishers' national council is due to decide today whether to meet unions on Friday with "no preconditions".

A statement from News International said the decision had been taken "because it has become increasingly difficult in recent months to have an approach that was suitable to all members of the NPA". The press release hints that other newspapers have been less than enthusiastic about litigation against the craft union. "Some companies within the NPA have already given indications both to their employees and the press that they have no intention of prosecuting this matter to its end."

News International said that although it would remain a member of the NPA, it was concerned to get wage negotiations out of the way so that "expansive projects" could be discussed with the NGA, Sogat '82 and the maintenance unions.

The NGA said the decision helped it to concentrate on its campaign for development plans and the union hoped other newspaper proprietors would take a similar course. It could only have a beneficial effect on News International relations with the NGA.

Leaders of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) are to urge their members at the Portsmouth News to reverse their decision to endorse a new technology deal.

Mr John Telford Beasley, aged 55, president (Medirer) of the American pharmaceutical company Warner-Lambert International, takes over next month as managing director of London Transport buses from Dr David Quarmby, who is leaving to join Sainsbury's.

Tough sentences for sex crimes

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Home Office is ready to back a private member's Bill providing tougher penalties for sexual assault and attempted rape. It is thought that the maximum prison sentence for attempted rape should be doubled to 14 years and for indecent assault from two years to 10.

Private members' Bills, for which an early ballot will be held, making kerb-crawling an offence and outlawing the sale of glue-sniffing were welcomed by the Government.

Correction

The photograph published on the back page on October 20 was not of the caption stated, of Ahmed Shah Massoud.

The Times overseas selling prices

London: 50p; Edinburgh: 50p; Glasgow: 50p; Manchester: 50p; Birmingham: 50p; Cardiff: 50p; Liverpool: 50p; Leeds: 50p; Newcastle: 50p; Nottingham: 50p; Oxford: 50p; Plymouth: 50p; Reading: 50p; Southampton: 50p; Swansea: 50p; Tyneside: 50p; Wakefield: 50p; Wolverhampton: 50p; York: 50p.

Gang threatened to burn bullion guards to get vault numbers, jury told

Raiders involved in the £26m bullion robbery at Brinks-Mat warehouse near Heathrow Airport last November threatened to burn security guards to get "infernos" if they did not reveal combination numbers to the high security vault, a Central Criminal Court jury was told yesterday.

Watered-down petrol was poured over them, Mr Michael Corkery, QC, for the prosecution, said. "The victims would smell petrol and not knowing it was mixed with water, their fear and terror was all too obvious."

Three Londoners deny plotting and taking part in what has been called Britain's biggest robbery. The three are: Michael McAvoy, aged 32, a builder, from East Dulwich; Anthony White, aged 40, unemployed, from Rotherhithe; and Brian Robinson, aged 40, motor trader, from Lewisham.

Mr Corkery said they had been given vital information by a security guard at Brinks-Mat, Anthony Black, who had family connections with Robinson. He had confessed to his part and been jailed for six years.

He would give evidence for the Crown about the gold, platinum, diamonds and travellers' cheques valued at £26,369,778 that were stolen.

Corkery said: "It was clearly an audacious, well-planned and, above all, simple robbery."

The depot, on an industrial estate in Hounslow, west London, occupied part of a large warehouse block known as unit seven. "On the day of the robbery all the valuables were piled up inside the thick and heavy-doored vault. Inside were also three large safes."

The vault needed two people to open its combination lock, a key man knew half the numbers and a crew leader the rest. The safes would have separate combination locks. Several alarm systems had also to be overcome, made easy by there being an inside man, Mr Corkery said.

Black, who was tied up, handcuffed and hooded with the other guards had worked at the depot since 1981. Mr Corkery said.

By last summer Black had met Mr McAvoy and White, and was meeting Mr Robinson every week, usually on a river bank, as Mr Black was a fisherman.

Mr Corkery said Black photographed the interior with a camera given by Mr Robinson, and took impressions of the front door key after he was shown how by Mr McAvoy.

The conspirators allegedly met the night before the robbery. Mr Robinson wanted to know how much would be there, Black said it was normally £1m to £2m.

But, unknown to them, five extra vans were going in that weekend. One was from Johnson Matthey, the bullion merchants, from which they took three tons of gold; others included 1,000 carats of diamonds from the Diamond Trading Company and £250,000 of travellers cheques from Citibank.

The robbers struck soon after the signal from Black. Mr Michael Scouse, the key man, felt a gun at the back of his head. He was handcuffed and a bag put over his head. His clothes were cut and petrol was poured down his trousers, Mr Corkery said.

Mr Robin Riseley, who has the other half of the combination, received similar treatment. But he was too frightened to remember the combination.

The robbers struck matches near Mr Riseley, threatened to cut off his penis and then stabbed him in the hand.

After the gold was loaded into a van, Black told police later, McAvoy pushed up his Balacava and said: "It's all right, we have got the lot."

Mr Corkery said there was talk about the proceeds being buried under concrete and Black receiving his share five years later "when the heat was off".

None of the haul has been recovered. The hearing continues today.

NatWest to give breakdown of charges

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank is to start giving personal customers a detailed breakdown of bank charges on customers' statements. It will be the first time that any clearing bank has offered this service and the move is intended to defuse customer irritation about bank charges, which give rise to a large number of complaints.

The service starts next month and the breakdown of charges will appear on bank statements covering the period September 10 to December 9. The breakdown will give a brief outline of transactions which incurred charges and the total charge less any notional interest allowance.

Mr Philip Girdle, general manager of NatWest's domestic banking division, said yesterday: "Our market research indicated that customers would welcome a breakdown of charges on the basis we now propose and our research was supported by the National Consumer Council report *Banking Services and the Consumer* published in December last year."

Research suggests that customers do not mind paying bank charges so much if they have a clear idea what the charges are for. However, the main problem for the banks in giving a breakdown is adapting computer systems to cope. NatWest, for instance, prepares more than 55 million personal bank statements each year.

Trustee Savings Banks are to start opening on Saturdays and by the end of next year aim to have 300 branches open from 9.30am to 4pm on Saturdays. The banks will provide a full banking service.

Lloyds Bank announced last week that it would start opening key branches on Saturdays next year. Only the Midland Bank among the big four clearers have yet to decide on Saturday opening but it is expected to make an announcement within the next couple of months.



The Big Top beckons

Riding high: Unis Hamish, aged four, who is claimed to be the world's youngest professional acrobat, performing a one-handed handstand from his father's palm in preparation for his appearance in the Tamara Coco's children's Circus at Chessington Zoo. This week the circus is holding auditions for young performers to appear in the first Children's Circus Show on November 3. This handstand will be Unis' star turn in the show to be held in the group's "big top" at the circus. Photograph: John Manning.

New airline aims to make Prestwick hub for US flights

Mr Randolph Fields, an American lawyer, yesterday outlined plans for a "radically new" non-union airline which he hopes will provide cheap private transatlantic flights using Scotland's struggling Prestwick airport.

Speaking at the airport near Ayr on the west coast, he said that there was nothing altruistic about his decision to make it the hub of what would be the "Highland Express" operation.

Last year Prestwick lost £3.4m but the co-founder of the cut-price Virgin Atlantic airline said that it was coincidence that his plans came as the airport's future was being debated.

The start-up, due in June next year, would depend on an early hearing of the licence application by the Civil Aviation Authority. Three objections have been lodged.

Mr George Giles, general manager of Prestwick airport, said that if traffic figures of four years ago were achieved by

"Highland Express" it would put the airport back into profit. Mr Fields said: "We intend to be extremely profitable. In our first year we plan to make in excess of £50m."

The new airline would employ 400 people directly at Prestwick next year, with the same number again taking on by sub-contractors.

Mr Fields, aged 31, plans to buy three wide-bodied Tristar aircraft to fly to New York and Toronto using Prestwick as a hub for flights from Maastricht in The Netherlands, London (Stansted) and Birmingham.

A £115 single fare is planned daily to New York and Toronto, with a standby fare of £89. Single link flights to Stansted, Birmingham and Maastricht would cost £23.

Mr Fields said that "Highland Express" would be a non-union airline as long as the management operated successfully. "If the management is good I don't see any reason for people wanting to join a union."

Thyssens seek ruling on venue for divorce

One of the world's wealthiest couples, the estranged Baron and Baroness Thyssen, came face to face in the Court of Appeal yesterday to ask three judges to decide on the final venue for their divorce.

Baroness Thyssen wants to end the 17-year marriage in Switzerland. But her husband, Baron Heinz Thyssen, aged 63, the steel millionaire, wants the English courts to settle the divorce.

The baron, with homes in England and Switzerland, has already won a High Court ruling in Britain stopping his wife launching divorce proceedings in Switzerland. It is that ruling that the Brazilian-born Baroness, aged 43, is seeking to overturn in the Court of Appeal.

The appeal hearing continues today. Mr Leonard Hoffman, QC, counsel for Baroness Thyssen, argued that Switzerland was the "natural forum" for the divorce. The baroness now lives in Zurich with the couple's son, Alexander. Mr Hoffman conceded that the baroness would automatically fire better from a divorce settlement in Switzerland. She estimated her husband's fortune to be between £100m and £300m. The appeal hearing continues today.

Brontë sale

The vicarage at Hathersage, near Sheffield, where Charlotte Brontë is thought to have planned her novel *Jane Eyre* is to be sold by auction on November 20.

Price curbs on some milks to end

By Robin Young

Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, yesterday announced the end of price controls for Channel Island, Homogenized and UHT milk. In answer to a written parliamentary question, Mr Jopling confirmed that when the current order setting maximum prices for these so-called premium milks expires on November 4, it will not be replaced.

In February Mr Jopling said that price control would cease by the end of 1985. It is now expected that the statutory instrument by which the ministry sets prices will be allowed to lapse this December.

Deregulation is not likely to affect current prices for milk, because although doorstep deliveries are charged at present maxima, milk now sells in many shops at lower prices.

The Government's decision could, however, exacerbate the continuing arguments between the Dairy Trade Federation, representing the big dairy companies, and the Milk Marketing Board, which between them control the distribution and retailing of milk.

Three sue hotel for bomb blast injuries

Two Lebanese businessmen and an American general seriously injured when a bomb exploded in the foyer of the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane, central London, nine years ago, sued the hotel for damages in the High Court yesterday.

Warning of the bomb had been telephoned to a newspaper office and the police were at the hotel within five minutes.

Mr Michael Lewis, QC, claimed that although another 15 minutes elapsed before the explosion, during that time no search was made and there was no evacuation.

Mr Lewis appeared for General Joseph Capucci, of Valley Brook Drive, Falls Church, Virginia, United States; Mr Nazih Ladki, of St George's Court, Brompton Road, South Kensington, London; and Mr Choucri Abouhalache, of Abouhalache House, Beirut.

Two people were killed and 59 injured in the explosion at luncheon on September 5 1975. Mr Lewis told Mr Justice Beldham that there had been a number of bomb hoaxes at the Hilton before the blast.

Hilton International Hotels (UK) denied liability and counterclaimed damages against Mr Abouhalache and Mr Ladki for non-payment of their hotel bills.

Mr Lewis said that Mr Abouhalache, aged 45, had to have his right leg amputated and was made deaf; Mr Ladki, aged 49, suffered a neck injury and facial scarring and was deafened; and General Capucci, aged 71, was totally deaf in his left ear and had slight hearing in his right ear.

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Tetanus killing ponies

Animal lovers were searching yesterday for Dartmoor ponies dying in agony, stricken by tetanus. Already up to 20 have died and more than 150 are at risk, Mrs Joanna Vinson, secretary of the Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society, said.

Veterinary surgeons are searching the west of the moor, carrying vaccine and serum.

"We are patrolling the moor every day in search of sick ponies. But unless it is tackled at the very first symptom the animal is almost certainly doomed to die," Mrs Vinson said. "Once they go down they can't get up."

Some of Britain's top electronics companies, among them Cable & Wireless, Plessey and STC, are sponsoring the institute, intended to alleviate the shortage of high technology graduates.

Since the publication in July of a government report on the skills shortage, by a committee led by Mr John Butcher, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Industry, the academic world and industry have been studying the problem. The Butcher solution was the creation of colleges funded by industry.

Lady Fraser enrolled as a member of the club three weeks ago. She was the former showjumping champion Aileen Ross and married Sir Hugh 11 years ago in St Vincent, Barbados. They separated after three years and were divorced two years ago.

An investigation into the accident has begun but no reason why the aircraft, a powered hang-glider, should have ditched in the sea, has been established. The search will resume today if conditions improve.

Microlight crash search halted by bad weather

By Ronald Faxx

Bad weather yesterday prevented police divers from searching in Inverberrie Bay, south of Aberdeen for a microlight aircraft carrying two people which crashed there on Saturday.

Lady (Aileen) Fraser, aged 36, former wife of Sir Hugh Fraser, was on the aircraft, which was being flown by Mr Alistair Milne, aged 28, an instructor with the Scottish Microlight Flying Club at Stirling.

An investigation into the accident has begun but no reason why the aircraft, a powered hang-glider, should have ditched in the sea, has been established. The search will resume today if conditions improve.



Lady (Aileen) Fraser, the former showjumping champion, and Sir Hugh Fraser, her former husband.

High technology college funded by industry

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

A technology institute is to be opened in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, next spring at a cost of more than £10m.

Some of Britain's top electronics companies, among them Cable & Wireless, Plessey and STC, are sponsoring the institute, intended to alleviate the shortage of high technology graduates.

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Computer Horizons, page 25

Student accused of biting off ear

Dewi Hitchcock, aged 21, a Cambridge University undergraduate, appeared yesterday before magistrates at Cambridge charged with biting off the ear of Mr Paul Wells in Cambridge on October 20, causing him grievous bodily harm.

Mr Hitchcock, a second lieutenant in The First Royal Regiment of Wales, was granted bail until November 14 on condition that he resides at Pembroke College, where he is studying.

Confession denied in severed toe case

A bricklayer accused of being one of three men who allegedly tortured Mr Harry Tipler a London newsagent, told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he had been framed by police.

Terence Bradford, aged 23, denied making a statement that he went to the home of Mr Tipler, aged 59, and his wife Cicely, aged 56, but "never did any of the sick stuff".

The court was told earlier that Mr Tipler had a toe cut off and his wife Cicely sexually assaulted when both were beaten up by three men during a £600 robbery in February at

their home in Peckham, south-east London.

Mr Bradford said in evidence yesterday that statements attributed to him by the police were never made. He claimed that he had been verbally abused and at one stage an officer "laid a brown truncheon on the table".

Mr Bradford said he never went to the Tiplers' home. He said that after drinking in the Shard Arms public house in Peckham Park Road at 12.45, he immediately took a taxi to his home at Carrisdale House, St Leonard's Road, Poplar, east London.

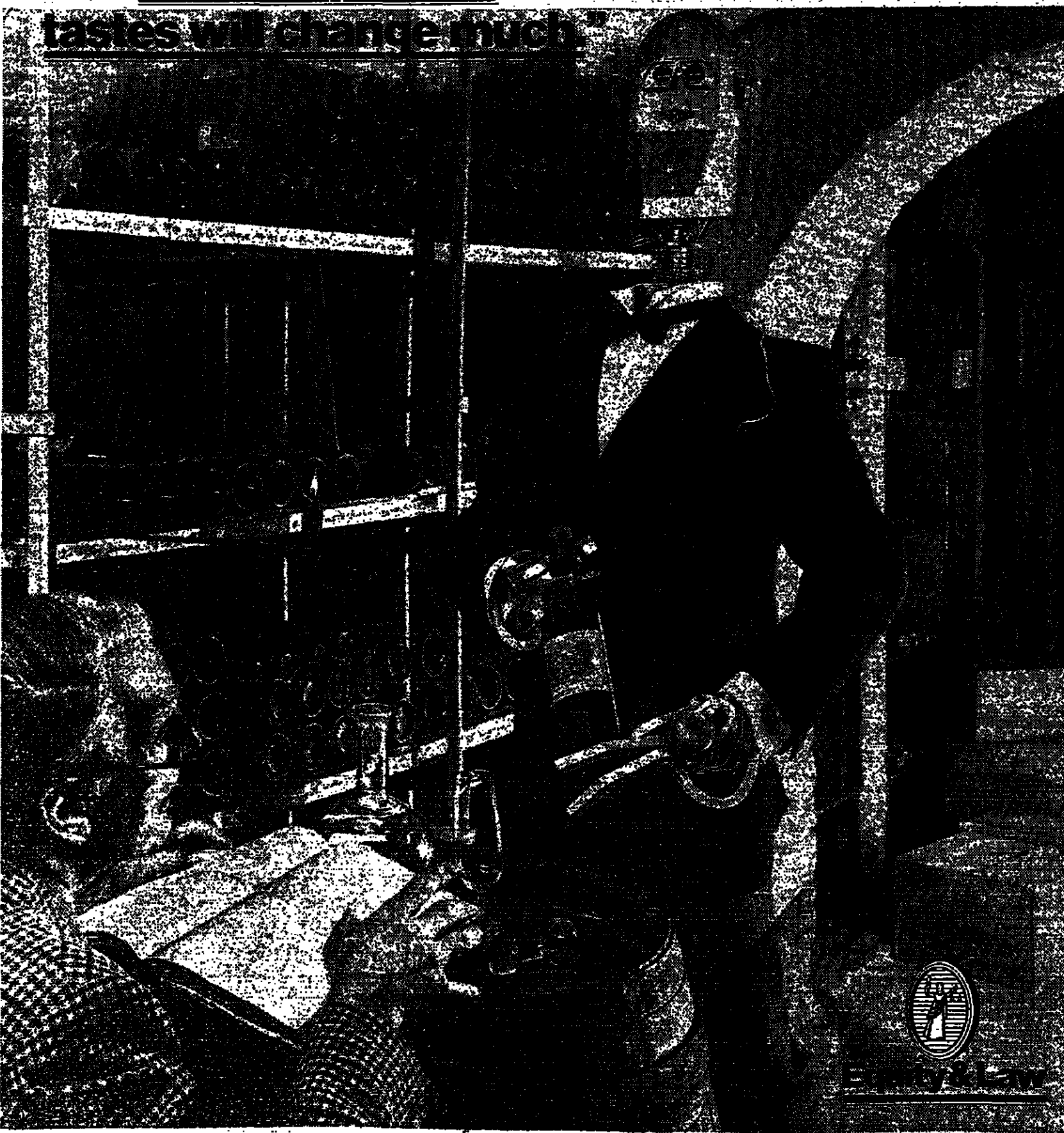
He said that he denied their

allegations of robbery and assaulting the couple but they said he was "covering for someone". He added: "In the end they said that I did it."

Mr Bradford said that he was arrested when police burst into his home. "One pointed a gun in my face and they handcuffed me," he said.

Mr Bradford, his brother Charles, aged 24, of Glengall Road, Peckham, and Edward Mitchell, aged 28, of Primrose House, Peckham Hill Street, Peckham, all plead not guilty to grievous bodily harm to the couple. The brothers also deny a robbery, which Mitchell admits.

The trial continues today.



Howe's warm meeting with Peres paves way for Thatcher visit

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Despite continuing differences over key aspects of Middle East policy, a new warmth has been injected into the complex and often prickly relationship between Britain and Israel as a result of the visit here by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

An indication of the improved understanding came yesterday when invitations were extended to both Mr Shimon Peres, leader of the national unit government, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, to visit London. There was speculation that the move could pave the way for

the first official visit to Israel by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

Senior British officials attributed the thaw in relations to the "end of the Begin era" and the coalition under Mr Peres. It has more moderate policies in a number of areas, notably Israel's role in southern Lebanon.

The talks between Sir Geoffrey and Mr Peres lasted 30 minutes longer than scheduled, and according to those present were marked by the cordiality of the two men. The British delegation has done little to hide their relief that Mr Peres is now at Israel's helm, if only for two years.

Disagreement over the role of the Palestine Liberation Organization came up during the discussion. But the British have let it be known that they now see a much greater chance of influencing Israel through good diplomatic relations.

Mr Peres outlined his Government's policy of leaving Lebanon as soon as adequate security arrangements can be established and of improving the quality of life for the 800,000 Palestinians living under Israeli army rule in the occupied West Bank.

The British are understood to have deliberately selected a non-controversial list of West Bank Arabs to meet Sir Geoffrey.

Yesterday, Sir Geoffrey fulfilled a hectic timetable of meetings, including one with Mr Yitzhak Mordechai, the Finance Minister which was seen as a sign of British and EEC concern about the chances of the latest austerity measures saving Israel from its worst-ever economic crisis.

Sir Geoffrey's urbane, low-key approach appeared to have impressed his hosts, particularly those trapped with him for more than 10 minutes when the Knesset lift jammed as it was carrying him to an official luncheon.

"Don't worry, it takes a long time to suffocate," he said to a worried-looking Mr Abba Eban, the Israeli elder statesman.

Earlier Mr Shamir referred to the Brighton bombing, in which Sir Geoffrey narrowly escaped death, with a call for international cooperation in dealing with terrorism.

The irony was apparent in the 15-minute address by a man sought by the British authorities before the foundation of the state as leader of the Jewish terrorist Stern Gang.

Students riot over attack on Arab bus

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Bethlehem University students rioted yesterday in the streets around the campus. They were protesting over Sunday's rocket attack on an Arab bus in Jerusalem. Using sling shots, demonstrators stoned vehicles with Israeli licence plates as well as Israeli forces.

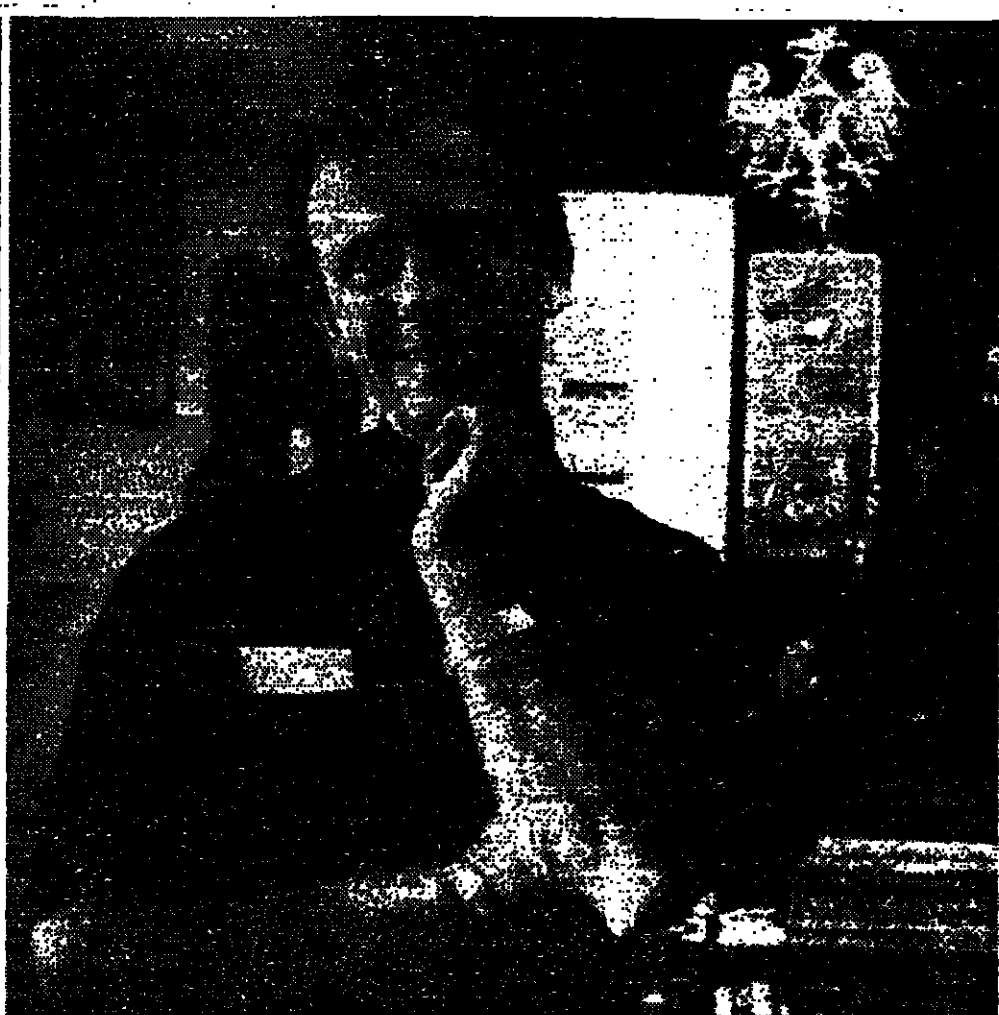
Troops firing tear gas canisters and shooting into the air drove the demonstrators back to the campus. Arab sources said one man was shot in the leg.

The soldiers kept the campus under siege and the rioters continued their stoning from the university grounds and raised the Palestinian flag. After negotiations lasting all day between the military and university authorities the troops withdrew, allowing the students to disperse.

Police investigators and Israeli experts said the perpetrators of the ambush of the Arab bus, who call themselves "The Avengers", were apparently a new extremist group unconnected with the alleged underground whose members are now on trial for murdering students in Hebron, crippling Arab mayors and other terrorist acts.

The new group was less sophisticated and less professional, they said. The attackers reportedly left several clues, including fingerprints on the rocket launcher and a handwritten note.

Members of Rabbi Meir Kahane's "Kach" movement were questioned yesterday but no suspects were arrested. Arab and Jewish critics concurred that the gunmen may have been inspired by the Jewish underground.



In happier times: Father Jerzy Popieluszko photographed last month in the living quarters next to his Warsaw church. He was kidnapped on October 19, and hopes were fading yesterday that he might be found alive.

126 missing after ferry sinks in the Philippines

Manila (Reuters) - Coastguards reported that 126 people were missing after a Philippines ferry boat sank near Marinduque island.

Two navy ships rescued 98 people and recovered the bodies of two dead children, while fishermen rescued 16 people off the southern coast of Luzon island.

The Venus, carrying 200 passengers and a crew of 42, went down in the Sibuyan Sea, about 130 miles south of Manila. The Philippines was hit by high winds and heavy rain caused by a tropical storm.

Jakarta shaken by ammo blast

Jakarta (Reuters) - A Marine ammunition dump exploded at Cilandak, south Jakarta, yesterday, lighting up the sky with shells and rocking the area for miles around. Scores of residents were evacuated as ammunition whistled overhead.

Military officials said they had no idea what had caused the blast and were unable to say if anyone had been injured.

Hashish haul

Marseilles (AFP) - French customs seized a record 10 tons of hashish worth some £18.3m. here last night, but the ship and its crew who smuggled in the drug escaped. The hashish was found in a container transferred to the quayside on Friday.

Village bombed

Islamabad (Reuters) - Pakistan said two Afghan jets bombed the Pakistani border village of Arandu yesterday, killing four people and wounding five. The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a protest.

Peace man shot

Guatemala City (Reuters) - A US Peace Corps volunteer was found shot dead yesterday, the latest victim in a wave of murders in Guatemala's capital. On Friday a right-wing politician, his two bodyguards and two professors were killed.

Libyan 'plot'

Khartoum (AFP) - Sudan announced the arrest of a southern Christian leader and a number of other men, including military personnel, on charges of plotting with Libya against President Nimeiry's regime. The National Security Council said it had uncovered a "criminal ethnic plot".

Tamil choice

Colombo - Mr Justice S Sharvananda became Sri Lanka's first Tamil Chief Justice yesterday, when he took the oath before President Jayewardene, in succession to Mr Neville Samarakoon, who retired last Monday.

Chaliapin home

Moscow (AP) - Sixty-two years after he left Russia in the aftermath of the Bolshevik revolution, the remains of Fyodor Chaliapin, the greatest bass in Russian opera history who died in 1938, were reburied with pomp yesterday in the Novodevichy cemetery among heroes of Soviet life and culture. His remains had been brought from Paris at his children's request.

Referee killed

Montpellier (AFP) - A football referee was shot dead during a local league match here by one of three men who interrupted the game by invading the pitch and haranguing the players.

Planes rethink

British Aerospace has won a two-week reprieve in its battle for a £20m aircraft order. European Commission officials are to look again at their decision to provide cash for Learland Islands Air Transport if it buys French planes, which the Commission ruled were more economical. The airline prefers the BA Super 748.

Malta warning

Valletta (Reuters) - The Maltese Education Minister, Mr Carvels Mifaud Bonnici, said 64 Roman Catholic schools must reopen before there can be any chance of a settlement in the education dispute. The schools, which lost their licences after refusing to provide free education, have been closed since October 1 on Archbishop Mercier's order.

Fatal hobby

Strasbourg (AFP) - An ammunition collector blew himself up in a basement workshop he rented at the City Hospice, which had to evacuate 30 patients. Officials did not know he had stored there his one-ton collection of shells, grenades, mines, cartridges and mortar bombs.

Correction

Mr Paul Simon, Democratic candidate for Illinois for the US Senate, is 55, not 35 as stated in a report from Chicago on October 27.

The electoral system: Part 2

How Reagan could end up in a legislative straitjacket

In the second of three articles on the electoral system of the United States, Nicholas Ashford, chief Washington Correspondent, reports on Congress and the state governments.

Although the presidential race attracts most public attention, there will also be 33 Senate races, 435 House contests and 13 gubernatorial elections taking place on November 6, as well as a host of other contests for state and local offices.

In a presidential election year, the congressional contests are often regarded as a sideshow to the main event. This year, however, the outcome of the Senate and House races will be almost as important as the result of the presidential contest.

Even if President Reagan is reelected by a substantial majority, he could find himself caught in a legislative straitjacket unless the Republicans manage to keep control of the Senate and succeed in reducing the size of the White House's present 266-167 majority in the House (there are two vacancies).

As Mr Edward Rollins, Mr Reagan's campaign manager, put it recently: "If we don't gain Republican seats in Congress, the Reagan revolution is over."

The key battleground will be in the Senate. There are 100 US senators, two from each state, and they serve six-year terms. Every two years elections are held for a third of the Senate seats on a rotational basis.

Of the 33 Senate seats being contested this year, 19 are held by Republicans and 14 by Democrats. Although Republican leaders are confident of retaining control of the Senate, it is considered unlikely that the party will be able to maintain its present 55-45 majority.

Several Republican incumbents, among them Senator Charles Percy of Illinois, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Senator Roger Jepsen of Iowa, look vulnerable. The party also seems certain to lose the Tennessee seat held by Senator Howard Baker, the Senate majority leader, who is retiring.

The only Democratic seat which, on present predictions, may fall to the Republicans is the one being vacated by Senator Paul Tsongas in Massachusetts.

Should the Republicans lose two or three Senate seats (no party has lost more than three seats in a year when the country was reelecting its President), they would be faced with a critical situation in 1986 when no fewer than 22 of the 34 seats being contested will be theirs.

As no party in power has lost fewer than four Senate seats during the middle of a second

presidential term, a reelected President Reagan could find himself confronting Democratic majorities in both Houses of Congress in two years time.

Elections for all 435 seats in the House of Representatives take place every two years. The Republicans' aim is to make up the 26-seat loss they suffered during the 1982 congressional elections. If they can do this they would, with the help of some 35 conservative Democrats, manage to have the same degree of control over the legislature which they enjoyed during the first two years of Mr Reagan's presidency.

However, as the gap between the presidential candidates has begun to narrow, Republican strategists have scaled back their forecast to a 10-15 seat gain. The Democrats' hope is to maintain their existing majority, perhaps even add a seat or two.

There are very few close races for House seats this year, no more than 25. The Republicans hope to pick up new seats in the South and Middle West, the Democrats hope to make some gains in the North-East.

Of the 13 state governorships being contested, seven are held by Republicans and the other six by Democrats. The Democrats hope to pick up one or two more state houses to bolster their present 35-15 gubernatorial lead. Most governors serve four-year terms. But in four states it is still only for two years.

tomorrow: The costs

The city that backs Mondale

On any day during the last week in San Francisco this week it would have been easy to believe that Ronald Reagan's days in the White House were numbered. The newspaper surveys after the two presidential debates on television showed Mr Mondale a clear winner of both a public perception of the President as dangerously incompetent and detached.

In this city of less than a million, mostly liberal souls, this may be wishful thinking. The bad news for the Democrats is that among the other 23 million citizens of this most populous state in the union, Mr Mondale is behind by at least 10 points.

However, the good news may be that even that lead makes the race for California's 47 electoral votes potentially closer than ever the most dedicated Democrat might have believed just a month ago.

California is traditionally Reagan country. He has never lost an election in his home state. Nevertheless, the Democrats have pumped \$1m (£250,000) and considerable chunks of Mr Mondale and Congresswoman Ferraro's precious and fast-running-out time into the state to challenge the conventional wisdom. No one doubts that theirs is an uphill task.

The President, dropping in at

From Iver Davis, San Francisco

the Rockwell International Assembly Plant in Palmdale the other day where the second B1B bomber is being built, bringing 5,000 jobs with it, hardly had to remind his aerospace audience that the Carter-Mondale Administration had cancelled the plane and that he had reinstated it.

Pointing out Mr Mondale's mainly anti-defence industry record in the senate the President declared to resounding cheers: "I don't know whether he would outlaw slingshots, but he certainly would jeopardize our national security."

As well as the aerospace workers, Mr Reagan is believed to have in his camp the high tech silicon chip industries and their employees.

Then there are the young. Recent California surveys show the septuagenarian Reagan winning the under-thirties vote by 57 to 43 per cent.

But Mr Mondale and Ms Ferraro too have their California constituencies. The environment, always a strong issue in the state, is a string being played on continuously by the two Democrats, who accuse Mr Reagan of giving oil companies full reign to despoil California's coastline. The anti-nuclear movement, who fear what they perceive as Mr Reagan's quick-on-the-draw approach to war and peace, are in the Demo-

cratic camp, as are blacks, who in the US as a whole favour Mr Mondale 90 per cent to 7, and the majority of the traditionally Democratic-voting Hispanics.

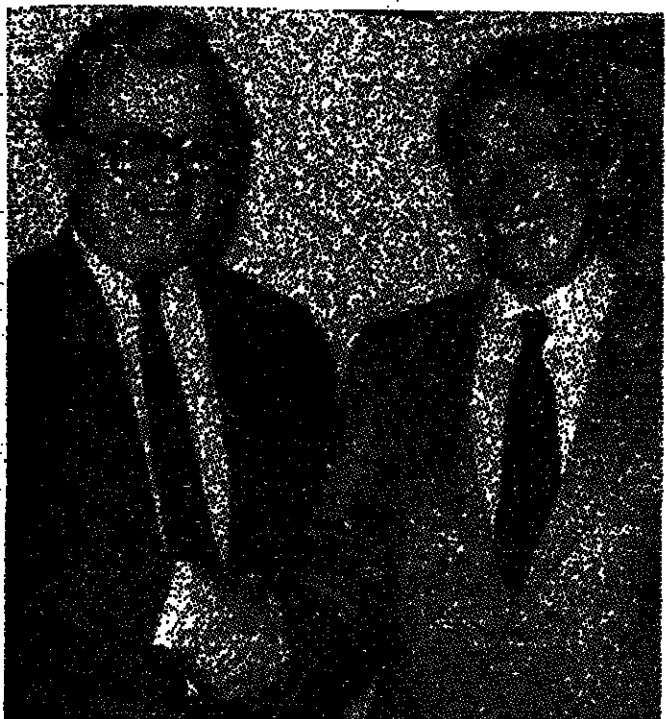
The Democrats plan to make good use of the services of Senator Edward Kennedy in lending his almost sanctified name in Spanish-speaking circles in the state.

Questions of abortion and the separation of Church and state, which worry Catholics and fundamentalists in the East and South and favour the Republicans, hold less sway in California where a monolithic church organization is lacking and where people are traditionally more liberal on moral issues.

At least one seasoned California politician, Governor Edmund Brown, beaten by Ronald Reagan for Governor in the sixties, believes his old nemesis may be more vulnerable here than anyone believes.

"People are beginning to see through him, to realize he's not competent. That's my opinion on why he's less popular in California than he was."

One man, at least, obviously disagrees with that assessment. Ronald Reagan plans to finish his campaign in California on election eve. He will stay the night in his Santa Barbara ranch and set up his "victory headquarters" to await results at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.



Shalom and smiles: Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, welcoming Sir Geoffrey Howe to Jerusalem

Syria carpets Jumblatt after Beirut shelling

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese Druze leader, was duly summoned to Damascus last night after yet another outbreak of shelling in the mountains above Beirut, a resumption of fighting between Druze militias and Lebanese Government troops that embraced the Beirut suburbs for the first time in almost four months.

The artillery battle in which shells fell on the Shia Muslim Hay El-Selm neighbourhood, on the Christian suburb of Hazriyye and on the Sunni area of Aysha Bakaa. Only four people were reported wounded, but by dawn the Lebanese Government's so-called "security plan" looked as impotent as ever.

Since Syria now has effective influence over the Lebanese Government's foreign and domestic policies, it is up to President Assad to "mend"

each breakdown in the Beirut truce. This Mr Jumblatt, as the probable offender in the latest violation of the ceasefire, was called to account.

The fighting actually began on Sunday in a pass, uncontrolled by any Druze militia, and shelling started firing into the Christian Phalangist-held suburb of Kfar-shima.

The Druze, who also spent some of the time pointlessly firing anti-aircraft guns at high-altitude Israeli jets, may have been anxious to put further pressure on President Gemayel's administration, which still seems unwilling to come up with the political reforms that Mr Jumblatt and the Shia Muslims have been demanding for so long.

In any event, the Syrians clearly do not believe that Mr Jumblatt's guns should have any part in Cabinet discussions.

Mubarak plays the waiting game

From Diana Geddes, Paris

New Middle East peace initiatives could take place after the American elections, President Hosni Mubarak indicated after two hours of talks with President Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace yesterday. He flies on to Germany today for a three-day official visit.

The Arab nations were already holding consultations on the situation in the Middle East and would continue to do so up to the American elections, he said. "Afterwards, we will all begin to act, and the European nations will be able to play an important role."

He felt it was a little too early to start talking of a resumption of the 1982 Franco-Egyptian UN resolution calling for a negotiated settlement in the Middle East based on the dual recognition of the right of all the nations in the area, including Israel to secure boundaries, and

the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. "Let us await the American elections and the reorganization of the Arab house," he said.

The Elysee made no comment at end of the talks which were dominated by the Middle East. It is the third time that the two presidents, who always keep in close contact, have seen one another since the beginning of the year.

Asked about M Mitterrand's forthcoming official visit to Syria at the end of November, Mr Mubarak said that he had not given a message. Mitterrand is due to deliver to President Assad, but charged the press to tell him "that I hope that relations between Arab countries will return to normal so that we can begin to work for the welfare of the region instead of fighting one another through the media or with arms."



Royal interest: Princess Anne studying a stuffed Tibetan yak at the Kashmir office in Delhi.

cream all of which produce quicker results than the traditional specifics.

But because some of these traditional items - bear's bile, for example, or deer musk - have become rare and expensive, these too are being provided. Modern techniques of immunization and instruction in the complementary skills of nutrition and family planning are also being taught to the villagers.

"The Princess was greeted at the building where the details of the SCF operation were laid out by the Queen of Ladakh, Rani Parvati Devi, and her hereditary Prime Minister.

"The monarchy in fact ceased to exist in 1841, when the generals of the Maharajah of Kashmir first seized the snowy kingdom. But the 43-year-old

Queen continues to hold a certain sway over the superstitious villagers.

Princess Anne was also treated to a switch of traditional Tibetan yak dancing where two perspiring dancers dressed in a yak skin pranced about under cheerful instruction from a young Tibetan refugee.

MEETING OFF: A meeting between Princess Anne and the Nobel Peace-Prize winner Mother Teresa has been called off, a British diplomat said (Reuters reports).

The meeting in Calcutta on Friday was to have been one of the highlights of Princess Anne's tour, but the spokeswoman said that Mother Teresa would not be back in time from a fund-raising trip to the United States.

Kasparov gets off to wary start

Moscow (Reuters) - The nineteenth game of the world chess championship began yesterday with the titleholder, Anatoly Karpov, having the edge of the white pieces against the challenger, Gary Kasparov.

The recent trend of turning the opponent's weapons against him continued with Kasparov choosing a classical queen's gambit declined as black, one of the champion's standard defences.

In the early stages Kasparov moved very slowly, taking care not to be caught out by a prepared attack from the Karpov team.

Nineteenth game
White Karpov; black Kasparov
Queen's Gambit Declined

1-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
2-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
3-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
4-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
5-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
6-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
7-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
8-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
9-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
10-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
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12-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
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14-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
15-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
16-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
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18-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
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21-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
22-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
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25-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
26-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
27-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
28-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
29-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
30-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
31-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
32-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
33-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
34-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0 0-0-0-0
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Sweets firm hit by poison scare

Tokyo (Reuters) - Morinaga, the confectionery company plagued by Japan's poisoned candy gang, said it would cut production next month by 90 per cent and sales were expected to drop by 70 per cent next month from last November's level.

Supermarkets and shops stopped selling the firm's products after the extortion gang put 2

Opposition camp divided over taking part in Nicaraguan elections

With only a few days to go before Nicaragua holds its first post-revolutionary general election, there is still deep confusion over whether the country's two main opposition parties intend to take part.

The Independent Liberal Party (PLI) decided to participate from Sunday's poll unless the ruling Sandinista Front began a broad-based dialogue embracing all dissident seekers of society. The Government promptly responded by inviting 29 political, business, religious and labour organizations to start talks about the nation's post-electoral future tomorrow.

The PLI presidential candidate, Señor Virgilio Godoy, said it was now too late to reverse the decision to withdraw unless by the party's national assembly 10 days ago, but his vice-presidential running-mate, Señor Constantino Pereira, disagreed, arguing that the vote could yet be overturned.

Meanwhile, the other main opposition party, the Democratic Conservatives, failed to decide on Sunday night whether it would also pull out. A crowd of young party activists invaded the meeting room and prevented a vote from being taken when it became clear that a majority of older delegates was likely to opt for withdrawal. Punctures were thrown and the meeting broke up in disorder.

Since the three right-wing coalition parties of the so-called

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Democratic Coordinating Committee (CDN) chose to boycott the election from the outset, ostensibly because they feel that fair conditions have not been created by the left-wing Government, only four parties are still certain to run against the Sandinistas. They are the centre-left Popular Social Christians (PPSC) and three radical left-wing parties: the Socialists, the Communists and the Marxist-Leninist-Popular Action movement.

While most delegates of the two main opposition parties appear reluctant to legitimize an election they admittedly expect to lose, some elements of both parties clearly believe that withdrawal could mean political suicide.

Failure to take part in the elections, which will also choose a 90-seat National Assembly, automatically involves loss of legal recognition as a political party under the electoral law.

The political coordinator of the Sandinista Front, Comandante Bayardo Arce, assured a recent press conference that the coalition was nevertheless invited to join the national dialogue if it chose. However, his subsequent reaction to the conditional withdrawal of the PLI suggested that the Government might in fact think twice about dealing with parties which throw away their right to exist.

The Government is deeply resentful of the abstentionists, whom it accuses of bowing to US pressure to sabotage the credibility of the election.

The Government coordinator, Comandante Daniel Ortega, the Sandinista candidate for the presidency, has accused the US embassy in Managua of bribing parties to withdraw with \$300,000 (£246,000) apiece.

His running-mate, Comandante Sergio Ramírez, said the Government was genuinely interested in holding a national dialogue with all forces in society. "But it must not be forgotten that we are going to have a National Assembly, too, and this is a place where a great national dialogue will take place," he said, clearly implying that talks with parties which choose to remain outside this forum may be marginal to the central task of forging a constitution.

Señor Godoy said that although his party might have expected to win 30 or more seats in the assembly, he no longer saw the ballot box as a means of ending the three-year-old war against the Contras. He noted that the Government had become "more receptive, more conciliatory" towards the other parties during recent talks which had given him faith in a national dialogue as a more effective means

Spanish open fire on their own fishermen

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain will apply sanctions more strictly in future against its fishermen who break the law, a senior Madrid official promised yesterday. He was speaking in defence of the action of a Spanish naval patrol vessel which fired at a Spanish trawler caught fishing illegally on Sunday in Spanish coastal waters.

It was the first time anyone here can remember that the Spanish Navy has taken action against the country's own fishermen. Spanish fishing boats, however, have been involved recently in several shooting incidents with the navy of EEC countries.

"The Government must have international credibility so that other countries know we are going to keep the agreement we sign," said Señor Miguel Oliver, Secretary-General for Fishing at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A Basque inshore fishermen's

association publicly welcomed the Navy's action against a trawler caught poaching in waters reserved for smaller inshore fishermen.

The Defence Ministry, opening an inquiry into the incident which involved the *Hermosa Primavera* trawler from the Santander fleet, explained that it had responded to appeals from inshore fishermen incensed by regular weekend poaching by trawlers.

No one on board the trawler was injured in the shooting which occurred, the Navy said, after the boat had repeatedly ignored signals to stop. The skipper of the trawler, which was subsequently escorted into Bermeo on the Basque coast, denied that he and his crew had been given any prior warning.

Spain has more than 17,000 fishing boats, although only 11,000 are in active use. Seventy-five per cent of the boats are of less than 20 tonnes

Pro-animal lobby rages at transplant

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Doctors who transplanted a baboon's heart into a two-week-old girl plan four more similar operations. The girl, known only as Baby Fae, was in a critical condition yesterday in a Californian hospital but said to be "doing remarkably well."

Outside the hospital in Los Angeles, 60 miles east of Los Angeles, a small group of animal rights demonstrators protested at the killing of the baboon.

Dr Leonard Bailey, who led the transplant team in the five-hour operation, said he sympathized with the demonstrators, but added: "I deal with dying babies every day. I love animals but I love babies, too."

The operation has started a debate over the ethics of using animal organs in transplants. Dr Bailey said: "If you had the opportunity to see this baby and her mother it would help convince you of the propriety of what we are trying to do. The baby looks better than it ever has."

Baby Fae was born with much of the left side of her heart missing.

Dr Bailey, who has been researching heart transplants for seven years, said there was a high risk that the baboon's heart in Baby Fae would be rejected, but the transplant was her only hope.

Doctors think Fae's chances may be improved because the infection fighting system of an infant is weaker than in an adult. It is the strength of this system that causes organ rejection. Dr Bailey's team used a new drug, Cyclosporin-A, to help fight rejection.

The transplant team used the heart of a seven-month-old female baboon. The Californian Organ Procurement Agency said the doctors made no effort to obtain a human heart. Dr Bailey and his team plan a series of five operations and will then evaluate the results.

British bridge team have mixed fortunes

Seattle - The British team had mixed fortunes in their opening match (a Bridge Correspondent writes). Sheehan and Rose, Coyle and Schenking in the open series were in top form against France, and won 46-19 which meant a Victory Points score of 21-9.

The British ladies playing Sunday were no match for the defending US champions, and were comprehensively defeated 24-6 (60-15). In the day's second match the British men found the Australians on a day when they could do little wrong and lost 20-10 (68-44). The ladies balanced their earlier result when they beat the relatively inexperienced Zimbabwe team 24-6 (71-28).

Both British teams struck form together when the ladies scored the maximum, beating Poland 25-4 (75-17) and the British men beat Barbados 22-8 (65-31).

Marcos orders 'secret army' inquiry

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Marcos ordered an investigation yesterday into reports that a 20,000-strong secret army, organized along partisan lines, was operating in the country's four services and is headed by a "supreme godfather."

Called "El Diabolo - Crime Busters", the group has "taken upon itself the task of prosecutor, judge and executioner of elusive criminals in society, including abusive military men," the *Metro Manila Times* newspaper reported in a front page story.

It quoted military officials as being concerned that the secret

army had modelled itself on the armed forces command structure with a joint staff and eight divisions, including operations, intelligence, logistics.

"El Diabolo" could duplicate, if not usurp, the functions of regular law enforcement agencies.

The newspaper is owned by the wife of the presidential assistant and diplomats believe the story could have been "planted" to sow confusion and possibly temper public criticism of the military conspiracy for the August 21, 1983 murder of the opposition leader, Mr Benigno Aquino.

French anger at Cheysson visit to Algeria

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France's decision to send M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, to Algiers on Thursday for national celebrations marking the thirtieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Algerian revolution has caused an uproar here.

Recoeur, the movement representing the million *piétons* who fled to France after Algerian independence in 1962, has called for the resignation of M Cheysson who, it says, will have sullied the collective memory of Algerian Frenchmen by the visit.

The movement, which endorsed M Mitterrand's election

in the 1981 presidential election, has called on the *piétons* to mark November 1 as a day of mourning by placing flowers tied with a black ribbon on war memorials, and by taking part in ceremonies being organized throughout France in memory of the French civilian and military victims of the Algerian war. Mayors are being asked to fly flags at half-mast.

M Michel Poniatowski, former Minister of the Interior and one of M Giscard d'Estaing's closest colleagues, described the Government's decision to take part in the celebrations as another shameful and scandalous blunder, while M François Léotard, secretary general of the Giscardian Parti Republicain,

said that it was totally unacceptable to celebrate the day marking the beginning of a period of deep humiliation for the French people.

M Jean-Marie Le Pen, president of the extreme right National Front and himself a former paratrooper in the Algerian war, has called for demonstrations throughout France on Thursday to show what he described as the French people's outrage over the Government's "scandalous" decision.

The Socialist Party has come out officially in support of the decision, though many are known to be unhappy about the affair which has stirred up so many painful emotions. Two

The battle for Bangladesh

Three-sided scramble for a dubious prize

From Michael Hanly, Dhaka

Politics in Bangladesh has resolved itself into a struggle for power between the widow, the orphan and the soldier-poet. The last has just announced that elections he had planned in December had been postponed indefinitely because the opposition threatened to boycott them.

The former two have announced a fortnight of agitation which will demonstrate their strength and the weight of feeling against the martial-law regime.

While the rewards of power in the third poorest country in the world (after the Ivory Coast and Bhutan, measured in terms of per capita income) cannot be immense, the problems are. With a population approaching that of Britain and France combined, in the land area of Scotland, with natural disasters occurring every year, governing is not a task with easy thanks.

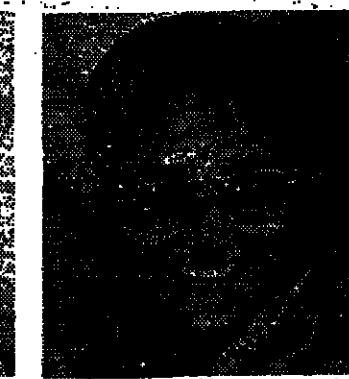
None the less 78 political parties at the last count were determined, seeking some share in the power held by the army under martial law.

The soldier-poet, of course, is Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, the chief martial law administrator, and self-proclaimed President of the Islamic Republic. He came to power two years ago, dismissing a corrupt and ineffective elected government and installing in its place an administration which has reduced bribery (though it cannot eradicate it), cleaned the graffiti off the streets, and conducted vital reforms in local administration.

General Ershad has long promised a return to civilian elected government, and to that end has permitted the resurgence of political activity. As his own retirement date from



General Ershad: The poet with a taste for power.



Shaikha Hasina: Following in her father's footsteps.



Begum Khalida: Passionate longing for the general.

the post of chief of army staff has approached (though of course the president - himself - could extend his service) he has dropped hint after hint that he would be available to contest any such elections as a civilian. A political party, the Janadol, or People's Party, has been founded and still has a vacancy at the top, which he is expected to fill.

His public meetings have often been convened by his reaching into his pocket and pulling out a crumpled piece of paper with a poem in Bengali written in his own hand upon it. He has also permitted to be published a slim volume of his own verse translated into English.

The general, a patently sincere military bureaucrat who was inspired in West Pakistan during the "Liberation War", has moved a considerable distance from his original plans for a return to a controlled democracy, since he entered into negotiations with the leaders of the political parties.

He has cancelled elections to the new local government bodies - *Upazilas* - or sub-districts - which would have

separated the old Dhaka politicians from their power bases and returned local control to more local hands. He undertook to hold parliamentary elections before presidential elections - an important concession this, since it would enable the ultimate battle for power to be waged with the opposition in a strong, elected position.

But the date he set for parliamentary elections, December 8, has now been abandoned.

Shaikha Hasina Wazed, the orphan, made it clear that the democratic opposition had no intention of participating in the December elections. "We don't want to legitimize this illegal government," she insisted at her office in the house formerly occupied by her father, the founder of the Bangladesh Republic, Shaikh Mujibur Rahman.

When he was assassinated in a hail of bullets - the marks which may still be seen - her mother and her two brothers also died. She and her younger sister were in Karlsruhe at the time, and survived.

Shaikha Hasina, aged 37, is leader of her father's party, the

Awami League, and also chairman of a group of 15 opposition parties which have agreed to combine together to campaign against General Ershad's rule. Her party is probably the best organized at grass-roots level, and after a period of unpopularity, owing to the failure of her father's attempt at pro-Soviet one-party rule, is probably the main vehicle for popular discontent with the generals.

She will not, she says, participate in any elections which are not "free and fair." By that she means that the Government must not take part nor must it support any political party. Especially it must not support the Janadol.

Discussions, messages, secret signals are all reported between the Awami leaders and the Government, though Shaikha Hasina denies that any such thing is happening.

But the result is the same so far. No compromise has been found, a number of formulas have been tried out: they include the possibility of all the Janadol ministers resigning from the Government, the gradual phasing out of the military administration, and the

formation of an electoral tribunal of three judges.

The widow is Begum Khalida Zia, whose husband, General Zia ur-Rahman, seized power in an army coup, and then legitimizing his rule, as General Ershad is attempting to do now, by having himself elected President. Later he was to die in yet another coup.

She is a handsome woman, who does not know exactly how old she is (many Bengalis do not) but thinks she may be under 40. She leads the party her husband founded, the Bangladesh National Party, together with an alliance of seven opposition parties.

The political stance of her party and that of the military Government is sufficiently similar for people to suggest a possible link between the Army and herself, and certainly she recognizes the warm feeling that the military leaders have for her. "The President (General Zia) built this army," she said to me. "He loved this Army. I also loved it. It is a patriotic force, a nationalist force."

But she roathes General Ershad with a determined passion. Though she would not say it, it is suggested that she blames him for her husband's assassination. She certainly blames him for the treatment of herself later, for the withdrawal of her driver and her office staff.

With political activity allowed, the opposition parties have been able to demonstrate their strength. Estimates vary, but some witnesses reckon that nearly a million people turned out in Dhaka just over two weeks ago for three separate opposition rallies.

The Janadol has not taken off in the same way, and has begun by getting a bad reputation for political violence.

Luanda offer to send Cubans back

From Michael Hanly, Johannesburg

America's assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker and Mr R. F. "Pat" Babin, the South African Foreign Minister, met in the Cape Verde Islands this week to discuss new Angolan proposals for a peace settlement in Namibia, the former German colony occupied and administered by South Africa for nearly 70 years.

The proposals were outlined by the Angolans during a recent visit to Luanda, the Angolan capital, by Mr Frank Wisner, Dr Crocker's deputy.

The main new element that emerged from the interview was President Dos Santos's stated readiness to give a commitment in advance that the estimated 25,000 Cuban troops in Angola would be sent home by stages in conjunction with the phased withdrawal of South African forces in Namibia under United Nations resolution 435.

This offer concedes the principle of "linkage" between the Cuban issue and the implementation of the resolution which Angola, along with other black "front-line states" in the region, has so far resisted publicly. It also coincided with the oncoming of the Angolan Foreign Minister, Mr Paulo Jorge, who is reputed to be a hardliner on Namibia and the Cubans.

The sincerity of South Africa's repeated claims that only the Cubans stand in the way of a Namibian settlement could now be put to the test. There has long been a suspicion that getting the Cubans out of Angola was chiefly an American wish which the South Africans were happy to use as a pretext for delaying independence for Namibia.

Soviet approach to China makes little progress

Peking (Reuters) - The Soviet negotiator, Mr Leonid Ilyichov, has ended his latest round of talks with Chinese officials on normalizing relations between the two communist giants, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry declined to say if the talks had made any progress. Mr Ilyichov, a Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, was now touring the provinces.

Western diplomats said the talks, between October 18 and 27, showed no signs of major developments. Mr Ilyichov negotiated with the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, and also met the Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian.

This fifth round of talks coincided with a statement by

the Mongolian leader, Mr Zhambyn Batmunkh in Moscow, that he was "better relations would help to improve the situation in Asia and Moscow would always keep the door open for constructive talks."

Moscow postponed indefinitely a visit to Peking in May by the First Deputy Premier, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, at the last moment.

"The question of what is happening about the Arkhipov visit is the main issue in the talks", a diplomat said. During the talks *Pravda* criticized China's economic reforms which have dismantled Mao Tse-tung's rural communes and are now directed against the centralized system of urban industry.

Dead soldiers' families fly into Grenada

St George's, Grenada (AFP) - Relatives of some of the 42 US servicemen killed during last October's invasion of Grenada were among the first passengers to land at the new international airport here.

Also on board the Pan American Airways inaugural flight were relatives of students at St George's University School of Medicine who attended the unveiling of a monument to the dead servicemen yesterday.

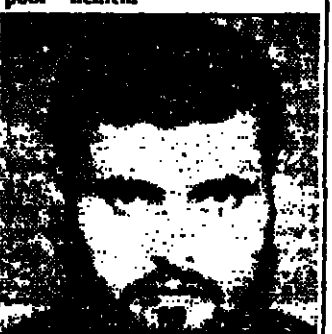
The British High Commissioner, Mr Giles Bullard, the South Korean Ambassador, the US Ambassador and US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs with responsibility for the Caribbean, Mr Charles Gillespie, witnessed the townshew. Sir Paul Scoon, the island's Governor-General, said Port Saline International Airport, which cost about £20m, had imposed a severe financial strain on the people.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Tunisia: Ali ben Younes Nouir

By Caroline Moorehead

A secondary schoolteacher called Ali ben Younes Nouir is serving a 10-year sentence on charges of defaming the Tunisian head of state, participating in a banned organization and spreading false information. He is one of about 90 people arrested in July, 1981, civil servants, engineers, lawyers and students, most of whom were members of the prohibited *Mouvement de la Tendance Islamique* - a group that has gone on record as rejecting violence to achieve change. Defence lawyers for those arrested were at first given only three days to study case papers - said to run to about 3,000 pages. The trial was then adjourned, against a background of allegations that the defendants had been tortured. Ali ben Younes Nouir, now at the start of his fourth year in prison, is believed to be in very poor health.



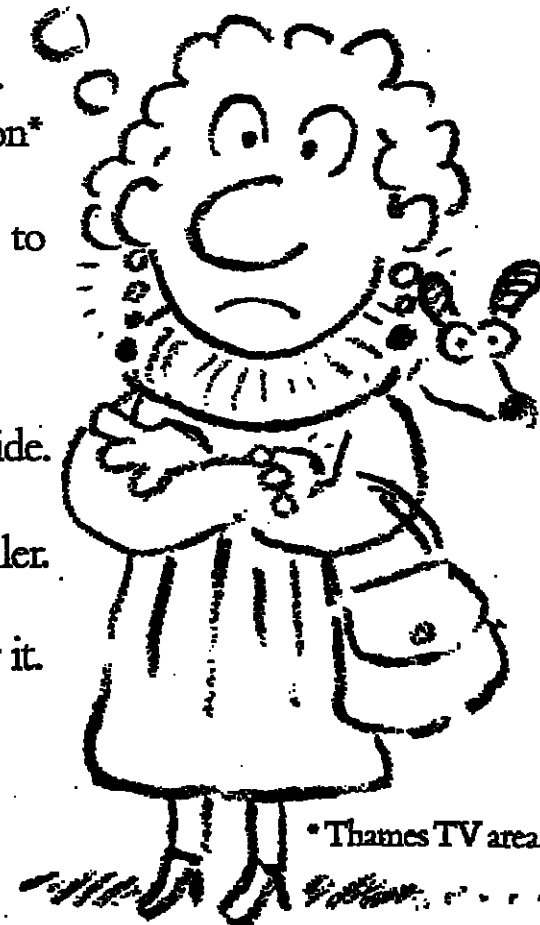
Ali ben Younes Nouir: On his fourth year in prison.

POOR OLD LONDON.

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Culturally, London is one of the richest capitals in the world. But when it comes to modern superstore shopping, Londoners are very poorly served indeed. Consider the disturbing fact that more than half of packaged grocery sales in London* is controlled by just two retailers. Unless more superstore planning permissions are given this stranglehold is set to increase - denying the consumer all the benefits of healthy competition. Asda can provide a much-needed alternative. Today, in Charlton, Asda opened its 100th store. Bringing a choice of over 30,000 products all under one roof. Bringing the convenience of 665 free parking spaces right outside. And, above all bringing Asda Price. Consistently, Asda has been shown to be the UK's lowest priced national grocery retailer. Unfortunately, Charlton is only the 4th area in London to benefit from an Asda superstore. It is hoped that many more will be allowed to flourish. London will be a lot better off for it.



* Thames TV area.

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SPECTRUM

VANISHING SKILLS

Part 2: Football

Football is in crisis at home and our players

are also struggling in international matches. David Miller suggests the cause is bad coaching and administration, not a lack of talent among our youngsters

Time to play it for kicks

A simple explanation of Brazil's 1970 World Cup victory in Mexico would be that they had not only the incomparable Pele, but five other players among the most accomplished the game has seen: Carlos Alberto at right back, Gerson and Rivelino in mid-field, Jairzinho and Tostao in attack. It is largely overlooked that by the time they defeated Italy in the final, they had been playing and training together as a squad for 19 consecutive weeks.

It is incomprehensible that Jack Dunnett, the president of the recently "Canonised" Football League - an MP and solicitor and hopelessly not without intelligence - should say that if he thought better preparation for England's team under Bobby Robson's management would produce results, he would recommend the postponement of club fixtures prior to World Cup qualifying matches.

Before England's match away to Turkey in two weeks time, and before each of the dozen or so matches they will have prior to reaching, optimistically, the finals in 1986, they will have two days practice in total under a month, or less than the time available to a league manager by the end of August at the start of a season. Is it any wonder England sometimes struggle? Before they get a better team they should probably find a wiser League president.

Most of the 24 teams who will compete in Mexico will have far longer preparation than England. This applies not merely to countries as fanatical about football as Brazil, but lesser teams from Africa and Asia. They will have spent months, maybe more than a

year, playing together in conditions comparable to a club team, playing together.

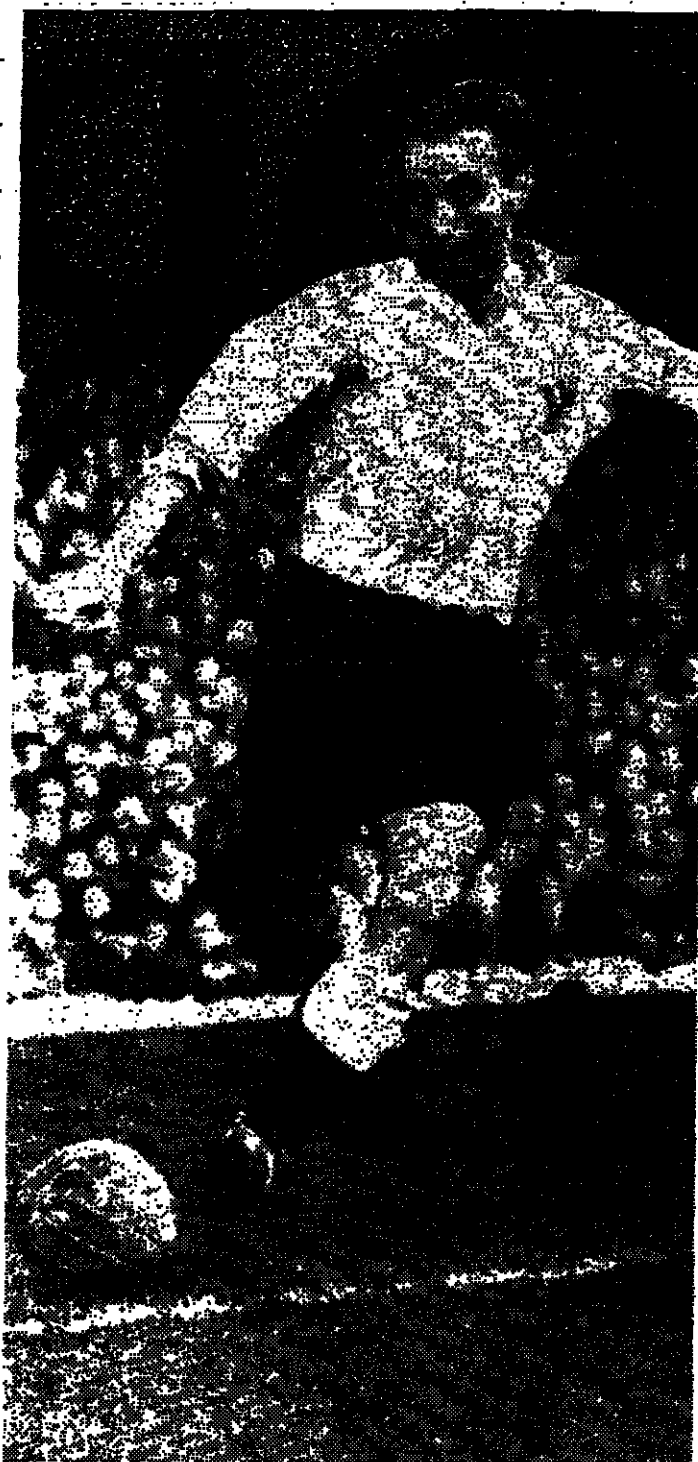
"We will have to improve by at least 25 per cent to achieve anything in the finals, for which I expect to qualify, because of the superiority of other teams preparation," says Robson. "We've got to do it in spite of the League. Even when we get together on a Sunday, players who are not actually injured may have knocks and can't practise on Monday, so all we have is Tuesday morning. It would be the same for Brian Clough, or whoever has the job."

In two years Robson has used 37 players: 16 were unavailable for the 1984 South American tour. Injuries have included Bryan Robson, Hoddle, Wilkins, Rix, Cowan and Devonshire, while from the 1982 side Brookling, Coppell and Keegan have retired.

Against Finland two weeks ago, an improving England side scored five, and it is worth recalling that two weeks before the opening of the World Cup in 1966, Alf Ramsey's team could only score three against the same moderate and, then, all-amateur country.

There are signs that Robson is building possibly the most attractive team England have had since Ron Greenwood's side of 1978-80, against the same obstacles of time and disruptive injury. What are the factors which have prevented the fatherland of soccer reaching more than one semi-final or final in nine World Cup attempts, or even qualifying for two of the last three?

The England team is inevitably largely a reflection of the Football League, however much



Sir Stanley Matthews: Wingers have to be talented

Clough and others may pontificate about the manager's selection and powers of motivation. Certainly Ramsey might have been more successful in 1972-74, and Don Revie and Greenwood in subsequent tournaments, with differing policies. What was consistent were the handicaps under which they were obliged to operate.

For the past 25 years, approximately co-inciding with the period of European cup competitions, club football in England - and abroad - has suffered increasingly from too many matches; too much television coverage diminishing public appetite; too many players moving around in pursuit of inflated wages; managers becoming ever more tactically negative, with the erosion of wingers; and increased fitness nullifying skill. The big apple has been reduced to the pips.

With attendances accelerating downwards, even the successful managers are at last acknowledging a crisis. "We must have a good international side, it is essential, the best way to generate national enthusiasm, and we should pull out all the stops," says Bob Paisley, now a scouting assistant to Liverpool after retiring as the most trophy-decorated manager in British history.

"We've got to get back the entertainment, get back to natural play," Jack Charlton, the centre half in 1966 with Ramsey who has had a year out of the game between leaving Sheffield Wednesday as manager and this season joining Newcastle, admits. "If I learned

anything in my year off it was that the public likes open football, goal mouth incident, good passing - something to remember as well as competitiveness. A few million now absent spectators could have told him years ago.

Yet the records show that even when England had entertaining players, such as Matthews, Finney and Carter, they did not get near the World Cup, and few gave them a chance before the 1966 finals. Skill must be blended with organization, as by the Hungarians of the Fifties.

Dave Sexton, who has always attempted to play attractive football as manager of Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers, Manchester United and Coventry and for seven years the England Under 21 team, is now chief coach at the FA's controversial boy's school. He is less pessimistic than others.

"We've got our share of talented players compared to most countries," he says. "Nostalgia tends to persuade us that today's players are less attractive than those of our youth. I'm hopeful. The present England side is mostly around 26, a good platform, and all the players such as Robson, Sansom, Lee, Wright, Barnes, Woodcock and Williams have come together through the under 21 ranks, where we reached two semi-finals and two finals in four campaigns."

It is argued that there are no longer so many skillful players coming through from the schools. This is because of many newly accessible alternative games, and because of the

"The winger is the most naturally talented player in a team. You can't tell him to fit into midfield any more than you can teach him to dribble, which is a gift. I don't blame Ramsey dropping Thompson."

Bob Paisley

"We played 4-4-2 when we were defeated by Wales last season, and had two shots. I accepted all the scorn, decided we had nothing to lose, and played with four strikers on the South American tour. To do that they have to be good, the wingers must be functional, they mustn't break down."

Bobby Robson

absence of working-class "street football" and those who are footballers are caught, like the huge adult, playing population, in a frenzy of trophy hunting.

"Almost the biggest harm of all," says Bill Nicholson, manager of Spurs double-winning team of 1961, "is the big, plastic, imitation ball. We used to learn with a small rubber ball or tennis ball, acquiring instinctive control, morning, noon and night. We had no coaching."

A letter recently dropped on Jack Charlton's desk from a boy wanting a trial with Newcastle. "I'm an aggressive midfielder ball-winner with vision," he proudly proclaimed. "What on earth does that tell you?" asks Charlton.

"Can he play football? Has he a left or right foot? In the old days you knew a bit from whether he was a left-back or a right-half. As Bob Paisley says, boys are all full of systems, because of organization. At Sheffield it took two years work on technique with apprentices before we could start approaching the game. Boys are generally not as good as when I joined Leeds 30 years ago."

"Comprehensive schools, condensing their teams, have helped the decline. Housing



John Barnes: Wingers have to be functional

estates have no playing areas, and you can no longer play in the streets. I now have to look for a boy with quality in one aspect, rather than all-round. The problem is accentuated because of finance, you have to make earlier decision on keeping or rejecting boys."

Nicholson stresses the adverse influence on coaching of finance. "It's back to front. The best coaches should be working with the juniors, but you have to put the emphasis on the first team, who generate the money. Of course coaching is essential, even for top players, just as with golfers or tennis players. The trouble with so many schoolboys is that ignorant coaches are shouting instructions from the touchline, which the boys haven't yet the skill to follow."

It is ironic that as one of only two managers to be knighted, Ramsey should now be remembered for allegedly introducing "systems" football and abolishing wingers, when he was merely pragmatic. He knew he could gain greater effectiveness among the players then available without wingers (he used Paine, Connolly and Peter Thompson in the 1966 build-up), and was then slavishly copied by every two-bit coach.

"The winger is the most naturally talented player in a team," says Paisley. "You can't tell him to fit into midfield, any more than you can teach him to dribble, which is a gift. I don't blame Ramsey dropping Thompson, a brilliant player but with blank spaces, and Ramsey wanted him more in the game."

"Yet we need spontaneous

act the neutrality achieved by fitness over speed. Nicholson would have the 35 yard line for offside, instead of the half-way line, to spread the game - "I agree with the American system, you have to give the centre-forward some space in which to control the ball" - and he believes the FA should fight FIFA, the international body, to be permitted an experimental ruling. FIFA, dominated by the unchallenged Jose Havelange of Brazil, have banned the US modification.

So how can Bobby Robson move within the present conditions, on two days' preparation every month? "We played 4-4-2 when we were defeated by Wales last season, and had two shots. I accepted all the scorn, decided we had nothing to lose, and played with four strikers on the South American tour. To do that they have to be good, the wingers must be functional, they mustn't break down."

Twenty years on he is in the same tactical cleft stick as Ramsey: wanting to play both Barnes and Chamberlain on the wing, but knowing he needs the likes of Ball or Coppell who will scrap their way out of a trench. Against Finland he used Barnes in a 4-3-3, then perplexingly found the team improved when additionally Chamberlain came on as substitute.

The experienced managers know the truth - coaching is only a bad thing when the coaches are bad - and they would like to get back to the old game but are thwarted by administrators who cannot see the ball for the accounts.

Sexton, who in his time has had many of the most exciting

"Tactics have determined we don't have entertaining players since we started getting behind the ball 12 or 15 years ago. When George Best was one against one, he had a two to one chance of going past a defender; one against two, and it was two to one against him; one against three, and it was about one in five; one against four, and he was knackered."

Jack Charlton

club players, remains intrigued by the game's contradiction. "You want a mixture of the dedicated and the outrageous," he says. "The unconventional players I've had such as Osgood, Hudson and Bowles have been great to work with. People criticized Osgood, but they never knew he had a breathing problem and no stamina. But for that he could have been a Di Stefano."

The irony for Robson is that if he could re-create the space of 30 years ago, Barnes, the exciting Hately and Chamberlain could acquire some of the magnetism of Finney, Tommy Taylor and Douglas. That would bring the crowds back - if we could turn off the television.

TOMORROW

Rugby: The perils of commercialism

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This Greek column really doesn't exist

moreover... Miles Kington

"Do you have any mousaka?"
"No."
"Any souvlaki?"
"What do you have?"
"Only chicken."

This conversation is taken, not from real life, but from BBC Greek language course. In any other language it might have been meant humorously but in a Greek context it seems to reflect quite honestly the uselessness of relying on the menu. A Greek menu is a list of things which, over 12 months, may be on offer in a restaurant. To find out what is on offer today you have to interrogate the waiter or, more helpfully, go and look in the kitchen. Very sensible, too.

And it seems to reflect a general optical illusion that takes place in Greece, whereby what is not there is just as important as what is there. The afternoon, to take one example, is not there. We Northerners are regularly warned that hot countries close shop at siesta time, but it wasn't until I went to Greece that I was warned it was highly impolite to phone or call on anyone between three and six, even during the winter when the absence of blistering heat makes the siesta unnecessary.

A lot of Greek history isn't there, either. Being an outpost of the Byzantine, Turkish or Venetian empires for so long seems to mean that Greece got by without our Middle Ages or Renaissance or imperialism, only starting to revive in 1830. The remains that date from that period are generally ignored by the Greek tourist business, which prefers to point us in the direction of ancient Greek

temples, which of course do not really exist any more.

Nor, to listen to the tourist business, does the mainland exist, only the islands. A Greek advertising man I met told me he has a one and home three round the corner from some of the most superb skiing country.

"But you never see any foreigners there. This suits me well, of course, but you would think the tourist industry would stop selling Greece as merely a collection of islands with three months of sunshine. You would never believe that Greece is 80 per cent mountains. To take another example - we make some very fine wines in Greece, but all you ever see on sale in London is the most ordinary kind of plonk."

This is true. I came across some delicious cheap wines in Greece, from Nemea for example, and have failed to find them in London. It is no use going to the Greek Food Centre. This, too, does not exist.

Nor does coffee exist in Greece. Well, that is not quite true. The phrase book lists more phrases for coffee than any other European language, specifying varying amounts of sugar, whether cold or hot, and so on. But this disguises the fact that there is nothing in between the incredibly strong, Greek coffee and instant, nothing that we would regard as ordinary coffee made with ordinary grounds to which you can add ordinary

milk. The Greek word for ordinary coffee is "nes". Nes-cafe must be well pleased.

Even in the Greek alphabet you will find curious omissions. They have no letters to represent our sounds b, g and d, although they use the sounds, so these have to be written respectively mp, gk and nt. A place marked "mpar" is obviously a bar, though I was baffled by a similar place labelled "mpoun". It turned out to be a small night club and the word

thus disguised was the French word *boite*. The one that finally stumped me was the drink on a menu described as "mpelais". Finally, I asked the waiter to show me what this was. He brought a bottle of Bailey's.

None of this is intended as a criticism of Greece or the Greeks, of which and of whom I am all in favour. I merely record what seems to me to be a curious series of optical illusions and wonder what the explanation can possibly be.

I have an uneasy feeling that the explanation does not exist either.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 482)

ACROSS	1 Lung mucus (6)	12 Memo (4)	19 Boring tool (5)
2 Candle fibre (4)	13 Entrance (4)	20 Leave lover (4)	
3 Flax fabric (5)	14 In general (7)	21 Priest's surplice (3)	
4 Boat race (7)			
5 Tease hair (8)			
6 Group (4)			
7 Velvet coat (7,6)			
8 Bucks town (4)			
9 Blush-purple (8)			
10 Not straightforward (7)			
11 Goodbye (5)			
12 Spot (4)			
13 Mummify (6)			
DOWN			
1 Sudden terror (5)			
2 Go brown (3)			
3 Worried by Jesus (4,9)			
4 Worker's pay (4)			
5 Bridge path (7)			
6 General issue vote (10)			
7 Audience area (10)			
8 ACROSS: 1. Divan 4. Legatee 8. Turp 9. Erratic 10. Simplicity 11. Grip 12. Unapproachable 17. Tonic 18. Democritus 21. Biscuit 22. Auger 23. Extremity 24. Alich			
DOWN: 1. Detect 2. Velum 3. Napoleon 4. Inefficiency 5. Giro 6. Natural 7. Excerpt 12. Panorama 14. Nemesis 15. Stable 16. Starch 19. Right 20. Tube			

THE ARTS

The exhibition *John Betjeman - A Celebration* opened at the National Theatre yesterday and runs until December 8: Myfanwy Piper, his friend of some fifty years, recalls Sir John

The game of social comment

It is hard to write yet again about someone who has already had so much deserved eloquence poured out about every aspect of his character and achievement. Hard, too, not to feel a little jealous of an old friendship with someone whose store of acute perceptions and eccentricities has, as it were, gone public. Instead of only a select and long-suffering band, everyone shares his riches.

John B. to distinguish him from all the other Johns of one's acquaintance, approached all human relationships by way of an idea of character or an invented situation. "Approached" is perhaps the wrong expression; "staved off" is more like it. When I first met him, nearly fifty years ago, the game had to be played; the invented character, the ambience discovered, then accepted with a good grace and then exploited to mutual satisfaction and many jokes. All the people accepted and loved by him had to put up with it, even and especially his own family.

It was when he carried the game beyond affection and into social comment and alien territory that "long-suffering" was an appropriate term. There was an occasion in an apparently empty bar at the Mytton and Mermaid near Shrewsbury when the Shropshire guide was being written. He suddenly spied, in a corner, a commercial traveller writing up his notes. We were then treated to a long imaginary sales talk about a whistling kettle in a persistent, boring Midland undertone. It was very funny and we were appalled; hopeless tears of laughter were mixed with tears of embarrassment - could what was going on be heard, or guessed at?

When the victim did not partici-

pate and was not intended to, there was ruthlessness, even cruelty, in the performance just as there was in his constant references, in public and in private, to his few implacable hatreds. But these were a matter of convictions. The people or opinions that he hated were those that could destroy the things he loved, things that were, until he brought them into the fold of his appreciation, orphaned by fashionable taste, or by academic judgments. Like Blake he feared both pretension and learning (as opposed to knowledge), seeing them both as destructive of feeling, as substitutes for the eye, the ear and the heart.

When I and my husband John first knew him, his approach to life was oblique and headlong at the same time. His preoccupations were what they always had been and were to be for the rest of his life - architecture, for the most part, and the Church (both buildings and worship) - and he would elaborate on them with a quirky frivolity that never hid (nor was it meant to) the seriousness of his addiction or the extent of his information.

He had a great appetite for games that showed off his skill and his knowledge and challenged that of his friends. Lines of verse were quoted and one had to guess the writer; the addresses of sub-post offices were read out from the *Post Office Guide* and one had to guess the name of the town (the interrogator was allowed to suppress any address that gave too much topographical information); verses were written on the "consequences" principle - two lines each with only one exposed repeated - but not just simple heroic couplets,

complicated Tennysonian and Hardiesque rhythms as well. There were Church-Crawls, long exhausting days. Twenty churches made a good day, not selected but all and every one that raised up a tower, a spire or a modest bell-cote above the landscape or amongst the trees.

His zest for his chosen occupations and companions was irresistible. He was also what he appears to be in some of the early photographs in *John Betjeman: A Life in Pictures* - precocious, whimsical, perhaps self-regarding, totally impractical, prone to sudden boredom and melancholy, and troubled with guilt. He could so easily have remained what he was in his Oxford days, the last of a few. But he became a public figure, a mascot almost.

How did he come to be loved by so large and so varied an audience, and, more important, to love it in return? If he feared pretension and learning he feared, even more, in those early days, ordinary people: shopkeepers, waiters, garage hands, builders, clerks, and he feared unknown ways of life. He could only reconcile himself to their existence by way of a self-protective act in which he was both actor and playwright, and in which his words and speech were unassailable.

Television was the obvious cause of his wide popularity, but how and why? John B's jokey approach and his underlying seriousness were in fact perfect for large miscellaneous audiences: the wit, the warmth, the music-hall timing, that amazing and wonderful laugh carried everyone away however unfamiliar his subjects. For those with ears to hear, the



Portrait by Derek Hill (1979), from *John Betjeman: A Life in Pictures* compiled and edited by Bevis Hillier, published yesterday by John Murray at £10.95

laughter gave extra joy to the unfolding before them of a different vision of the world.

In addition he had the great good fortune to plunge into a world of technicians, a world about which he knew nothing and which he might have ignored or feared if it had not

been essential to his performance and also been the human contact that a performer needs and the screen cannot give. He discovered how interested, how responsive, how funny a set of people on a job can be. It gave him as well as them a new dimension.

Television

Appalling economies

A jaded thriller-writer watching BBC's *Horizon* last night would hardly have believed his luck. Here was a whole bagful of plots, unfortunately not merely the stuff of fiction. *Biology at War: A Plague in the Wind* reported on the increased capacity of men to kill each other with biological weapons.

This skill has been enhanced by the availability of recombinant DNA techniques developed and developing in the fast forward march of genetic engineering. Germ warfare has a whole new dimensional possibility. Virulent characteristics of one gene can be added to another and used on an enemy. Done "properly", man-induced plagues can appear as natural outbreaks.

Nor is the manufacture of such weapons exorbitantly expensive, the prerogative of governments. Terrorist groups have been found with literature on the subject. We saw simulations of how a small factory or even a home laboratory could be set up cheaply to wipe out a city.

Dr Neil Livingstone, an American security expert, comparing the cost-effectiveness of biological against nuclear warfare, remarked that "there are economies in killing people". He envisaged a situation where a freighter might be moored off Manhattan and dry biological material pumped into the atmosphere. Ventilation systems would suck it in, making skyscrapers into slaughterhouses.

The 1974 Biological Weapons and Toxins Treaty, which followed the 1969 initiative of President Nixon, who pronounced a moratorium on manufacture of such weapons, was intended to inhibit governments. Dr Richard Goldstein, of Harvard Medical School, thought it laudable but vain.

Research was permitted for defence. This implied discovering offensive possibilities; also the examination of dispersal techniques. The line between offence and defence was therefore thin. The treaty contained ambiguous wording and no verification procedures. Interest in biological warfare is heightening. Earlier this year, the *Wall Street Journal* carried

a series accusing the Russians of ignoring the treaty. The articles, regarded as hysterical by many scientists, were, we were told, accepted by US military authorities and used as a reason for counter-measures. Professor Richard Falk, of Princeton, thought the danger of a biological arms-race real.

Col. Richard Huxoll, of the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases, the focus of sceptical eyes, was reassuring. Work at Fort Detrick, Maryland, he said, was open, unclassified and published. Dr Goldstein thought the institute, though not doing anything strictly wrong, was working on "some exotic things".

The writer-producer Jeremy Taylor was inexorable with examples of the ability of man to use germ weapons. In the Forties, the Japanese had visited plague on Chinese cities and used prisoners like laboratory rats, killing 3,000 in experiments or to remove evidence.

A Senate Committee had found that the CIA were ignoring the biological war, arguing that the treaty applied only to military establishments. Then there was Dr Castro, blaming four noxious plagues on Yankee imperialism. In case we dismissed this as rhetoric, the CIA plot to poison Dr Castro, one of a number of lethal alternatives, was recalled.

Most intriguing perhaps, was the case of Dr Leonid A. Rvachev, of the Gamalaya Institute, Moscow. He forwarded to world scientists, in 1983, a mathematical model showing how a pandemic virus, such as influenza, could spread around the world. Opinion is divided about whether Dr Rvachev was issuing a warning, being used for propaganda or merely being eccentric. His model is still being scrutinized.

A lethal ingredient fuels speculation and research, one that preceded genetic discovery: suspicion. Unavoidably, Mr Taylor added to our unease, not relieved by the thought that there might be something at least as bad as a nuclear holocaust.

Dennis Hackett

New York galleries

Comparative revelations

"Primitivism" in 20th Century Art
Museum of Modern Art

Van Gogh in Arles
Metropolitan Museum

If the making of exhibitions is an art in its own right - and interpretative art at least it must surely be - then we cannot be surprised occasionally to encounter virtuoso performances. Sometimes inevitably the exhibition shows off instead of just showing what it is showing. But there are subtler, more worthy kinds of virtuosity than that, and the extraordinary show "Primitivism" in 20th Century Art, at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, until January 15, is the perfect example.

The show concerns, very baldly put, the influence exerted by primitive art of various origins on a number of diverse twentieth-century artists, mostly from Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger* (1907) to the end of the Twenties, though it is finally traced up to our own time. Much of it, naturally, is based on compare-and-contrast, and one cannot but be amazed at how often the nail is hit right on the head: if a particular mask or statue is in a painting by Picasso or Nolde, there the original is right next door. Less evident sources - Henry Moore's sculpture-within-sculpture suggested by Oceanic totems, for instance - are picked out and exemplified so precisely that one cannot but accept the evidence of one's eyes. It is difficult even to guess at the gargantuan job of organization and coordination which must lie behind this web of telling juxtapositions. But to get it so right, so often, is exhibition-maker's virtuosity to the nth degree, yet all in the service of the subject at hand.

Fascination with primitive art of one sort or another has been a key element in the evolution of Western art during the twentieth century. It really starts with Gauguin, but in him the Polynesian elements come primarily from where and what he was painting, and are therefore explicable (just as local colour). With Picasso we get something different: an acceptance of primitive styles not necessarily on their own terms, but at least on equal terms with Western models and traditions. Picasso was a great collector in his own right, and the Cubists followed suit, finding that they responded



Last flurry of freedom: detail from Van Gogh's *Self-Portrait* of 1888

most readily to the African. Surrealists, on the other hand, found the bizarre mixtures of materials, the free fantasy of the Oceanic more to their taste. Indeed, the idea could be carried much further than in this show: the limitation is reasonable to keep things within bounds, but all the same we cannot dismiss totally from mind the Surrealist and Cobra interest in psychotic art (sometimes strangely similar to Oceanic works), and it does seem a little arbitrary to deal with Brancusi entirely in terms of West Africa and New Guinea when equally close "primitive" parallels are much nearer home in the domestic woodcarving of his native Romania.

But after seeing the show one is in no mood to carp. It is one of those shows which in their range, their intellectual excitement and their sheer beauty seem to justify all over again the very existence of an institution like MOMA. Whether what we see is familiar or rare, Matisse or Mattia, Brancusi or Brauner, it keeps on pricking our consciousness, making us ask for more and raising, quite properly, as many questions as it answers.

To be fair, the Metropolitan's show Van Gogh in Arles, which runs until December 30, must have occasioned almost as many problems in the putting-together. We are not so aware of them because the material is more uniform, but looking at the labels we notice immediately the multiplicity of sources, and stop again to wonder. Van Gogh was in Arles for just over a year - his last of freedom, as it turned out - from February 20, 1888, to his departure for the Saint-Remy asylum on May 8, 1889. During that time he worked constantly with power and passion and finally a frantic intensity which could not help somehow discharging itself in destructive (or self-destructive) violence. The show gives us

almost a day-to-day account of what he did, beginning with those snow-scenes which so surprised him when he first headed for the dazzling light of the warm south.

We know very precisely what he saw, what he felt about it and how he set about using it in his paintings. There are the letters to his brother Theo, and there are the drawings that he made after paintings (rather than in preparation for them) to show his painter friends Emile Bernard and John Russell what he was up to. And later on there are the parallel paintings of Gauguin after he had come to work, sometimes literally side-by-side, with Van Gogh. All these elements are present, as well as the real preparatory sketches and studies he made, to illuminate and extend our knowledge of a body of work, nearly all here, which we suppose to be as well known as anything in nineteenth-century art. So no doubt it is, but seeing so much of it together, at all stages from conception to completion (and after), brings many new insights.

For one thing, it is revealing to see the works in strict chronological order. After the snow scenes we get a joyous yet immaculately controlled group of trees in blossom, then the first of the many superb drawings with a red pen that Van Gogh did in Arles, with their extraordinary dash, immediacy and precision, as though he had learnt more than just a few tricks of composition from the Japanese masters he most admired. And yet, with the speeding of pointillist dots and fast calligraphic lines, they look like nothing else in art, and are in some ways more innovative even than the paintings. The paintings, on the other hand, have the full vibrancy of Van Gogh's colour, and extreme familiarity does not stale any of them.

John Russell Taylor

AAM/Hogwood
Queen Elizabeth Hall

It is easy to be snooty about Handel's *Ester*, which in 1718 was his first attempt at an English oratorio. He revised and enlarged it for performance in 1732. Unbalanced, inconsequential, undercharacterized and basically incoherent: all these criticisms are true to some extent and yet they do not prevent the finished piece from being an exhilarating, highly original work.

Previous revivals (the Handel Opera Society gave a concert performance in 1973 and staged the work in 1980) have opted for a mixture of the 1718 and 1732 versions. Sunday night's account by the Academy of Ancient Music attempted to give instead a pure 1718 version.

The result was fascinating: instead of presenting the oratorio as a rather crude anticipation of the mature masterpieces, it set it firmly in the context of Handel's small-scale works for Cannons, the Chandos Anthems, *Acis and Galatea*, and showed him visibly bursting from the restrictions of those pieces as the work progressed.

Ester is not fundamentally dramatic in this form. There are six scenes, with interlarded solo and choruses which culminate in the glorious final number, a self-contained anthem like those to which Handel subsequently reverted in *Israel in Egypt*.

Interestingly, as in *Israel*, much of the material is borrowed, in this case from Handel's own *Brother Passion*. The first scenes are written for a small band with solo oboe, and in the absence of violas and the odd disposition of the chorus parts there are surely signs that this part was performed by the Cannons forces. But in scenes five and six the music explodes: a couple of horns arrive for a tempestuous chorus, and a trumpet as well as the sadly neglected violas have their chance at the close.

It was hardly surprising, then, that the second half of this performance sprang to life in a manner that the first had notably failed to achieve. Paul Elliott's singing of the exquisite "Tune your harp" was a delight, and Anne Griffiths' harp obbligato in Lynne Dawson's aria was splendidly crisp. It was good to hear Ian Partridge's mellifluous voice again, and Stephen Varcoe was a nobly restrained Haman. But it was the arrival of Anthony Rolfe Johnson as Abasuerus which lifted the spirits, and Patricia Kwella's searing determination against the string

Concerts

synopses in "Flattering tongue" was thrilling.

The discovery of the evening was Drew Minter, an American counter-tenor of ready strength and lyrical refinement; in the tiny chorus, eight boys from Westminster Cathedral Choir sang splendidly, and Christopher Hogwood's direction emphasized the relaxed expressiveness as well as the excitement of the score.

Nicholas Kenyon

Philharmonia/
Ashkenazy
Festival Hall

For a pianist to make his debut here with Prokofiev, and the Second Concerto at that, argues either immense assurance or a rash bravado. It was very much the first of these that characterized Sunday night's performance by Alexander Toradze, the Georgian pianist, who arrived here with an already stated reputation in other European countries.

His impressive technique, which no doubt helped to win him the silver medal in the 1977 Van Cliburn competition, was subordinated to a rewarding strength of musical character in each of the concerto's movements. There was a compelling sense of purpose in his shaping, for instance, of the unaccompanied developments in both the outer movements, and in the precipitously exhilarating scherzo.

He was given alert and skilfully matched support by the Philharmonia Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy, who was a most assured performer in this concerto himself in his earlier pianist days. If memory serves, he was perhaps freer in his approach than Sunday night's tautly-controlled virtuosity at the keyboard.

By way of overture we heard Prokofiev's early symphonic sketch *Autumn*, in which the acknowledged debt to Rachmaninov was overlaid by a subtlety of impressionist detail in the colours and harmonies. For the second part of the programme Mr Ashkenazy turned to Sibelius and his First Symphony. By the end of this the orchestral strings had confirmed the virtues of tone and ensemble that distinguished their performance throughout the concert.

Time was when Sibelius was second nature to British orchestras, until the music was taken too much for granted. It deserves fresh thinking and a new approach from a different standpoint, and this performance sounded a good working sketch on those lines.

Noël Goodwin

Pegasus/Crossland
Purcell Room

Although innumerable contemporary Italian composers are ignored in this country, it seems strange, on the evidence of the two individual yet eclectic works given by the chamber choir Pegasus and Michael Finnissy here, that Giacinto Scelsi should until recently have been among them.

In *Te cantu sacri* of 1958, Scelsi's textures are outwardly reminiscent of the sort of things happening in Polish music around the same time. There are, for example, the micro-tones, the clustered chords and the overlapping dynamics familiar from Penderecki. But there is, too, a concentrated intensity in the way Scelsi sets his verses, and that is something which separates him from Penderecki, who can often sound rather artificial.

Under Richard Crossland's direction, Pegasus grew steadily in confidence after their rather timid singing of "Angelus Domini", the first setting. They dispatched "Requiem aeternam" with an impressive dark stillness, and the final "Gloria in excelsis" was almost ebullient as layer was piled upon layer of sound.

If Poland seems to be the most prominent influence here, in *Four Illustrations* for piano (1953) Scelsi draws on a wider range of sources, most obviously Hindustani, while musically the pieces recall Bartók, Messiaen, Webern, even Ives. Michael Finnissy played the extraordinary sequence with the panache with which he usually greets such complexities. Later he did similar service to his own *Reels*, a brief sequence of dances full of rhythmic complexities, more or less pregnant pauses and pretty noises, and also gave a poetic world premiere of the late Elisabeth Luyken's *La natura dell'acqua*.

Those two works formed part of a sea-orientated and thoroughly British second half. Finnissy's own *Australian Sea Shanties* proved to be as blatantly tonal and tuneful as Richard Rodney Bennett's *Sea Change*, four sixteenth-century settings written for last year's Three Choirs Festival. Both pieces brought confident and rich singing from the choir. It was a pity that they found themselves on less secure ground in Peter Maxwell Davies's encouragingly challenging *Westerlings*, though the sopranos showed admirable control at the top of their register here. Which is more than can be said of Berio's *Cries of London*, where the right solo singers wavered precariously around the written pitches.

Stephen Pettitt

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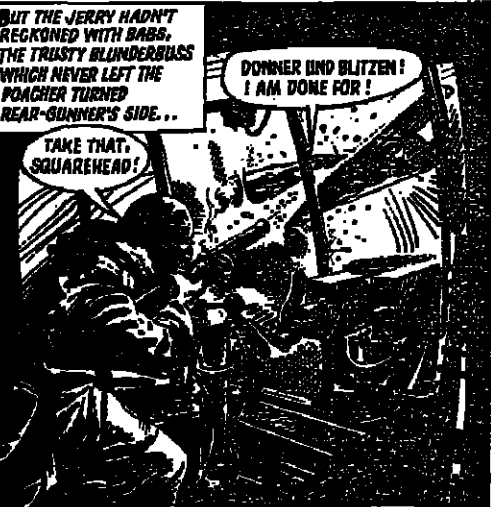
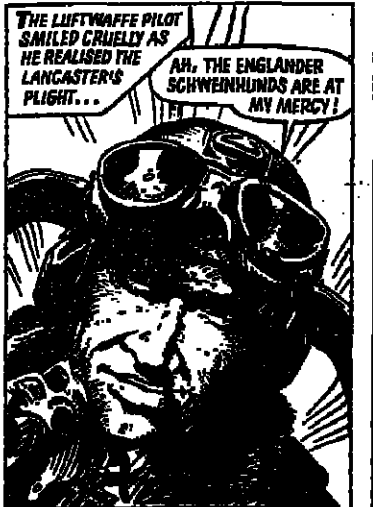
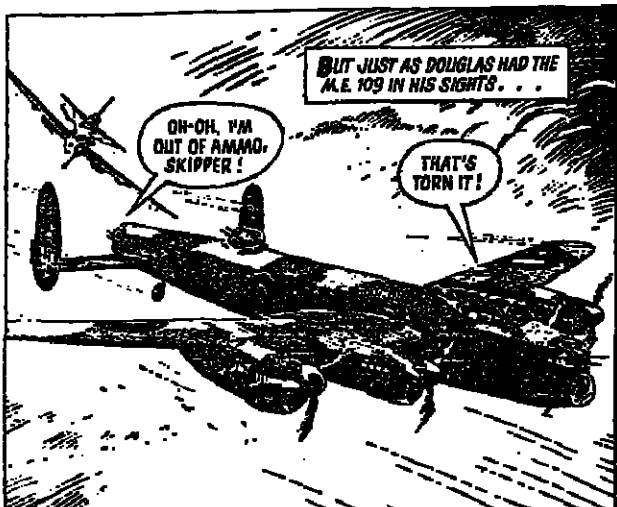
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THE TIMES DIARY

Keeping a balance

As anti-apartheid demonstrators prepare to picket Barclay's head office in London on Friday in protest against its extensive interests in South Africa, I can reveal that the great anti-racist champions, the GLC, has more than £6.6 million of pension fund money invested in Barclay shares and loan stock. Indeed the council admitted yesterday it has been investing in Barclay's since 1965. The Dean of King's College, London, the Rev Richard Harris, who is chairman of the End Loans in Southern Africa campaign, said the investment was news to him, and urged the GLC to withdraw immediately. Defending the investment, the GLC now staging a London Against Racism year - said: "We must get the best return for the taxpayer; it could be that companies with South African connections are the best deals we have." Rochdale council, controlled by a Tory-Liberal-SDP coalition, has no such qualms. In an anti-apartheid gesture, it is switching its account from Barclay's to NatWest, even though it could cost taxpayers £50,000 over three years. "It is a democratic decision," said the treasurer, Alan Fenton. "so the auditor cannot take any action against it."

● The Booker Prize is not Anita Brookner's only comp. According to *Who's Who*, she was born on July 16, 1938, yet she was awarded her BA from the University of London in August 1949 - when she would have been 11. Still, as an historian, Professor Brookner should know her dates.

Reserved

Downing Street sniffily told me yesterday that the malt whisky Mrs Thatcher took the Tebbits in hospital at the weekend was "personal to her and nowhere for sale. I trust the secrecy isn't being the fancy box labelled 'Prime Minister's Reserve' concealed a Suntory label inside.

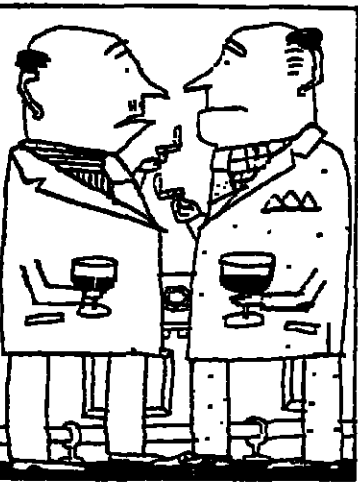
Blacking out

The right-wing Monday Club, embarrassed by a series of resignations in March over its alleged racism and extremism, could soon be dealt a further blow by one black member, Derek Laund, secretary of its immigration committee. He plans to make a speech calling for the expulsion of extremists and insisting that membership be limited strictly to Tory party members. South West London Young Conservatives are to offer him a platform "as soon as possible" - and it is no accident that the branch chairman is Simon McIlwaine, one of those who resigned from the Monday Club in March. Laund's speech, I'm told, may well be the prelude to his own departure.

Meat their match

The Argentines are an optimistic lot. Although diplomatic links with Britain remain severed, they are offering cut-price beef to our embassies. In a letter addressed to "His Excellency Chef", a Buenos Aires firm asks the British embassy in Vienna to "take advantage of the privilege to receive every month one of the world's best meat qualities". The Argentines, I hear, have been told to hoof it.

BARRY FANTONI



"With a name like Roger Windsor, Gaddafi clearly thought he was royal"

Cheeky

After years of dealing with teenagers, magistrates in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, are now facing an older variety of defendant, mostly up on minor public order offences connected with the coal dispute. Almost out of habit, one JP told an accused to take what he was chewing out of his mouth. The middle-aged miner dutifully plucked a pair of false teeth from his gums.

● At the risk of deepening the gloom, I can report that a number of the soup kitchens set up in the coalfields to feed striking miners' families have already ordered Christmas trees.

Rolling stones

A distressed BBC mole rang yesterday to tell me of the "wicked" measures the Beeb has taken against faithful autograph hunters who daily congregate outside London's Eton House in pursuit of Radio 1 DJs. The Corporation has removed the stone paving which the grooves sat on, replacing it with "We took the measure," said the Beeb, "to prevent the irresponsible few from flapping record requests on the paving stones."

PHS

Gaddafi's only good unions

by Andrew Lycett

It clearly cannot have been Arthur Scargill and the NUM to whom Colonel Gaddafi referred when he addressed the Sixth Arab Conference on Workers' Culture in Tripoli in December. "Traditional" trade unions, he said, organize "trade members" for the benefit of a union leader, for the prestige of the wider trade union movement, or in order to bring pressure on governments".

In most instances, the Libyan leader said, trade unions had "betrayed their members" by devoting their efforts to improving wages and working conditions. However, high their incomes, no matter what political system they operate under, "workers will be doomed to serfdom" as long as they remain subject to the control of employers through the wage-labour system.

A complete change in the economic system was needed so that workers helped make decisions and shared in the proceeds of production.

Enter Gaddafi's Third Universal Theory, encapsulated in his Green Book. Just as he believes that the popular will should be channelled through people's committees at all levels of society rather than parliaments and parties, so does he reject management, and calls upon workers to organize committees to run their places of work.

"The people should exercise power directly," he told the same Arab conference on workers' culture, "and the workers should exercise power directly by running the factories themselves, receiving a direct share in the fruits of their labour. In short, workers should become partners, not wage earners."

In this way Gaddafi has concocted

a wonderfully blurred recipe for a totalitarian state. Without parliament you cannot have the disruptive political element of parties; without management, ditto unions.

In practical terms this means Libyan workers ("partners, not wage-earners") accepting cuts in take-home pay over the past two years as oil revenues have fallen and the budget has run at a deficit. Thus, although the word union is not totally forgotten, labour relations are conducted through plant workers committees which rubber stamp government decisions (as on wage reductions).

However, even workers' committees are banned in the two most powerful sectors of society - the army and the oil industry, which still accounts for 70 per cent of GDP and nearly 99 per cent of export earnings.

Ironically, union activity, particularly among oil workers, was crucial in creating the climate for the overthrow of the Libyan monarchy in 1969. The leader of an oil workers' strike in 1967, Mahmoud Maghrabi, became Gaddafi's first prime minister, but they soon differed over the political direction of the revolution and Maghrabi now lives in London, where he is a leader of the opposition Libyan National Grouping.

Although flirting with trade unions in his early years in power, Gaddafi banned strikes and downed protests, even among students, after a week-long dock strike in Tripoli in March 1972.

A student campaign to retain the

right to organize free trade unions led to clashes with the police in 1975-76 and the execution of a number of students in April 1976. It was the anniversary of these executions which opposition movements demonstrating in St James's Square earlier this year - when WPC Yvonne Fletcher was killed - were attempting to commemorate.

While trade union activity is now non-existent, Gaddafi continues to display enthusiasm for union with other countries: Syria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Algeria, Chad and, most recently, Morocco, have all entered unions of varying duration with Libya in the past decade.

When creating the environment for these unions, Gaddafi often sends otherwise quiescent workers' leaders to meet their opposite numbers. This proved particularly fruitful when forging links with Tunisia in 1982. Two years earlier the Libyans used their influence with Tunisian trade unions to set off a wave of strikes which almost toppled President Bourguiba's government.

Prominent union activists were subsequently imprisoned in Tunisia. But the necessary pressure had been put on Bourguiba, and in January 1982 he and Gaddafi agreed to bury their differences and establish full political and economic union. When this union failed to take off, Gaddafi stepped up his campaign against the Tunisian government through that country's relatively free trade unions. A similar process can be seen in Libya's relations with Morocco.

When dealing with western countries, Gaddafi has not had such room for manoeuvre. But recently he seems to have adopted the tactics of attempting to deal with potentially sympathetic bodies in the mainstream of the European labour movement, rather than left-wing fringe groups. Thus his well-publicized ties with Vanessa Redgrave and the Workers' Revolutionary Party have been loosened, and Libyan diplomats (while they were in Britain) increased contacts with more left-wing elements in the Labour Party. Last year the then head of the People's Bureau in London linked with Ken Livingstone. This year the group Liberation, affiliated to the party, arranged a trip to Libya for four left-wing Labour MPs.

The MPs, who came from high unemployment areas in Scotland and the North-west, made no secret of their desire to help mend Anglo-Libyan relations and so win orders for shipyards and other plant in their constituencies. Gaddafi was no doubt aware of this goal, and as a first step arranged for them to gain some credit for the release of two of the seven British prisoners held without charge in Libya.

He could now be offering the same kind of jobs and security for long-term friendship with the NUM. But Mr Scargill should remember that on the same trip to Libya at the end of August was an official of the National Union of Journalists, seeking redress for three Arab reporters sacked by the Libyan news agency in London for attempting to establish a trade union.

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Peter Kellner on the GLC's growing lead in the propaganda battle

Can Kenneth ever master Ken?

Last month the Prime Minister gave Kenneth Baker the toughest political job outside the Cabinet. As the new minister for local government he has to carry through the abolition of the Greater London Council and the other metropolitan authorities.

As Mr Baker acknowledges, GLC abolition will more than anything be a test of his powers of persuasion. Most Londoners, including many Tories, disagree with what the Government is doing. The Conservatives have lost more popularity in the capital this year than anywhere else in Britain, as the European Parliament elections, borough by-elections and a string of opinion polls have shown. Mr Baker's greatest prize would be to turn that opinion round, and to undermine the remarkable degree of public support that Ken Livingstone, the GLC leader, has acquired during the past three years.

He has not made a good start. The first round of the Baker-Livingstone battle was won, on points, by Mr Livingstone. Eleven days ago London Weekend Television screened a 90-minute programme on the GLC, an hour-long documentary on the background to abolition was followed by a 30-minute debate between the new-fanciful GLC leader and the poetry-loving minister.

To measure the effect of the programme, LWT commissioned a unique survey. A cross-section of almost 400 viewers was interviewed in detail both before and after the programme on their attitudes to the GLC. The results, published here in detail for the first time, show that on most - though not all - of the issues tested, Mr Livingstone's arguments gained the most ground.

The technique of monitoring the same people's views at different times is a familiar one for detecting changes, and contrasts with the normal polling technique of asking a different sample each time. Any change in the views of the same sample is a real change; a variation in the responses of different groups may merely represent sampling fluctuations.

LWT's survey was conducted by Audience Selection over the telephone. This technique does, of course, mean that the views of non-telephone owners - mainly poorer people living in rented homes - are not represented; however, much of this bias can be eliminated by weighting the responses of those people who were contacted to the known social characteristics of London's entire population.

Germany's forests are sick, and so is the nation's soul. Few things have so profoundly shaken the German people as the sudden devastation of those evocative, primeval forests that cover almost a third of Germany, and which have shaped the country's history and culture. The latest government figures show that half all the woods are damaged or dying, a dramatic increase on eight per cent two years ago. And as politicians in their bewilderment plan ever more drastic measures to halt the catastrophe, a kind of ecological panic has gripped the country.

No one really knows why the damage has occurred so suddenly, what the real causes are and what can be done to save the forests. But no effort is now being spared. Germany has become the most ardent advocate in Europe of clean air, the most stringent enforcer of pollution controls, the most ferocious champion of lead-free petrol and catalytic converters. Billions of marks are being spent on chemical spraying to try to save the diseased trees. An international conference has been convened to persuade Germany's neighbours to cut their pollution.

Ecology has become a main topic of dialogue with Eastern Europe, an important common concern at a time of deteriorating East-West relations.

The death of the forests has been the single most telling reason for the seemingly unstoppable rise of the Greens, now the third strongest political force in the land. In a remarkable change of traditional

GLC abolition: for and against			
	Full sample before programme %	before %	after %
Do you agree or disagree with the Government's proposal to abolish the GLC?			
Agree	21	21	23
Disagree	69	71	74
Don't know	10	8	3
If the GLC were to be abolished, do you think it would lead to...			
Higher or lower rates in London?			
Higher	55	57	59
Lower	22	21	22
Don't know	23	22	19
More or less remote local government?			
More	51	53	50
Less	30	29	35
Don't know	19	18	15
More or less democratic government?			
More	52	49	20
Less	27	50	68
Don't know	21	21	12
More or less efficient local government?			
More	26	24	24
Less	56	60	62
Don't know	18	16	14
Better or worse services?			
Worse	20	18	16
Don't know	63	67	71
Don't know	17	15	13



Livingstone v Baker: seven-three in a unique survey

The table shows the answers to some of the main questions. The first column shows responses of the full sample of 656 people interviewed throughout LWT's area (slightly larger than Greater London) before the programme was shown. The second column shows the "before" responses of the 388 members of the sample who fulfilled the pollsters' request to watch the programme. The final column shows the responses of those same 388 people when they were contacted again after the programme.

As can be seen from the first two columns, the people who watched the programme held a similar initial range of views to the whole sample.

They tended to be slightly more pro-GLC than those who did not watch, but the difference was not great.

On the main issue - is the Government right to abolish the GLC? - the main result of the programme was to reduce the "don't know" from 8 to 3 per cent, with each side of the argument gaining a little extra ground. Those opposing the Government on this issue continued to outnumber its supporters by more than three to one.

But on a number of the specific arguments, there were clear winners and losers, measured by changes in attitudes. Mr Livingstone gained ground on seven questions:

● The numbers who said they would object "if there were to be more Whitehall interference in the administration of London" rose by 11 points, from 65 to 76 per cent, the biggest shift in attitudes uncovered by any of the 25 questions.

● Eighty-three per cent now say the main reason for abolishing the GLC is political, rather than a wish to improve London's administration - a rise of nine points.

● The numbers thinking that GLC abolition will lead to less democratic government is up by 8 points to 68 per cent.

● Seventy-one per cent said after the programme that Mr Livingstone was doing a good job as GLC leader, compared with 66 per cent before the programme.

● The numbers approving of the GLC's support for ethnic minorities rose by 10 points to 62 per cent. There were also slight increases in approval of the GLC's support for women's rights (up from 61 to 63 per cent) and for homosexual rights (up from 41 to 45 per cent).

● Seventy-one per cent thought that abolition of the GLC will lead to worse services for Londoners - a rise of four points.

● Among those living in the GLC area, those saying they would vote Labour in a GLC election increased from 47 to 51 per cent. Support for the Conservatives fell from 24 to 22 per cent, while the Alliance's rating rose from 16 to 17 per cent. Don't know's and won't votes declined from 13 to 10 per cent.

Mr Baker, however, gained ground on three points.

● The programme produced a six-point increase in the numbers who think that abolition of the GLC will lead to "less remote local government" - up from 29 to 35 per cent.

● Before the programme 52 per cent agreed with the statement "The GLC is too political"; afterwards the number increased to 57 per cent.

● Before the programme only 9 per cent thought the Government was putting its case across well; the figure afterwards was 13 per cent.

One programme, and one poll, can provide only the most tentative pointers to the course of the debate over the coming months. But this early evidence suggests two clear conclusions: first, that a clear majority of Londoners believe that abolition of the GLC is wrong in principle and will do harm in practice; and that Livingstone is proving himself more than a match for his executioner.

The author is political editor of the New Statesman.

How acid rain has become a national obsession:

Michael Binyon reports from Bonn

A message shouted from the treetops

roles Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the right-wing minister of the interior, is leading an environmental crusade.

"The death of the forests hits at the deepest reaches of the German soul", a popular news magazine said recently. "The idea of Germany without woods is unimaginable." To make the point, it ran a series of provocative pictures of famous pine-clad beauty spots in Germany denuded of trees, calculated to make readers shudder.

The importance of forests in the Germans' mental landscape is evidenced by history, myth, custom and practice. They also play a vital role in today's society. Germans savour their woods as much for spiritual replenishment as for physical exercise.

All this is hard for foreigners to understand. Although France has almost as many woods as Germany - 26 per cent of the land area compared with 29.5 per cent - they have never been the same fixture on the French cultural horizon. In Britain, where only eight per cent of the country is forested, this is even

less so. Only in some East European countries such as Czechoslovakia, where forests cover 35 per cent of the land, do they play so large a role in people's lives. The damage there is also far greater than in Germany, although as yet governments have been slow to do anything about it.

Barely a day passes without a television programme or newspaper article on the death of the woods. In conjunction with the vociferous organization, "The Forest in Distress", the mass-circulation paper *Bild am Sonntag* has just started a campaign to plant a million new trees. For the first time in six years the Bundestag was recalled for an emergency session in the summer recess to discuss a proposed coal-fired power station that would spew large amounts of unscrubbed sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere.

The government's present heightened concern is partly a shrewd pre-emptive move, an attempt to recoup the political ground won by the Greens, especially among the young. Recent opinion polls have shown that next to the economy and security issues, voters

see the environment as their main worry.

For this reason it is the Greens who have set the shrill tone of the present debate. But the arguments have become so emotional that Germany is in danger of being swept along by a kind of ecobehaviourism. Zimmermann himself has given a warning against a panic reaction, and called for a step-by-step approach. He told a magazine interviewer that it was neither possible nor economically sensible to halt all pollution overnight.

But the environment campaigners believe that unless they speak in apocalyptic terms, their warnings will be taken as lightly as they were 10 years ago. For although Germany is attempting the same big clean-up that Japan started in 1974, its previous record is far from good. And Britain, because of its hesitancy and apparent complacency, is again being cast into the familiar role here of holding up progress in Europe.

The German soul is prone to angst, a fact the Germans frequently bemoan. Car stickers succinctly summon up the nightmare: "Just imagine," says one often seen nowadays, "it is spring and there is no green on the trees." The government has issued a postage stamp with the stark exhortation: "Save the Forest."

Zimmermann insists the fight is not yet lost, and the woods will never disappear. But the very prospect of yellowing pine needles and dying oaks is sending a horrified shudder down the nation's spine.

Roger Scruton

Who are the real racists?

Readers of this column will be familiar with the case of Mr Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster who dared to tell the truth about multi-ethnic education in our inner cities, and who has been consequently silenced by the bigots who control public education in Bradford. Not content with this result, the radical middle classes, led by a Ms Jenny Woodward, are now pressing for Mr Honeyford's dismissal. Ms Woodward has induced 200 parents - all Muslims - to ask for the withdrawal of their children from Mr Honeyford's school, saying, "We made a point of asking that the children be kept together. Of course it is unrealistic. We don't want them transferred at all. The answer is for the authority to remove Mr Honeyford" (*Times Educational Supplement*, October 12).

Ms Woodward is quite wrong. The answer is for the authority to do as it was asked, and remove the children. If the parents are genuinely disturbed by the influence of Mr Honeyford, it is their right as British citizens, and their duty as parents, to send their children elsewhere. If they are not genuinely disturbed, then they deserve to take the consequences of their irresponsible behaviour. For those who promote conflict must be prepared also to suffer it.

But how is it that such a situation could have arisen? The answer is to be found in the magic word "racism". For several years now influential "educationalists" have been encouraging us to see in every institution of our society, the marks of an ill-defined but supposedly all-pervasive evil.

With characteristic contempt for truth and evidence, the radical "educationalists" have invited us to interpret the misfortunes of black children and the comparative achievements of their white contemporaries as the result of "institutionalized" habits of racial discrimination. When figures showed that Asian children tend to do better in our schools than white children, the radicals hurriedly redefined all Asians as black, so as to maintain the statistical evidence in their favour. It could then still be said that "non-whites as a class are systematically underachievers" - a sure proof that they are victimized.

To the unprejudiced observer the performance of Asian children gives the lie to the myth of "institutionalized racism". To the race relations lobby the myth is an emotional necessity, and cannot be refuted by anything so neutral as a fact. As one of the few members of the teaching profession to tell the truth, Mr Honeyford has incurred the wrath of those who live by denying it: he

must therefore be branded as a "racist". An important influence behind this paranoid way of thinking has been the London University Institute of Education, and in particular the director of its "Race Relations Programme", Professor Chris Mullard. Mullard is a sociologist who has devoted his life's work to defining "racism", and to accusing others of practising it.

His message, although presented in obscure sociological jargon, is simple: "racism in our society is a 'structural' fault, and its existence is proved merely by the disparity of achievement between 'black' and 'white'. Hence, nothing that you or I can do will exonerate our 'white' society. The well-meaning attempts at racial integration, the refusal to judge pupils by anything except their achievements, the adoption of a core curriculum - even the attempt to reject this curriculum in favour of some 'black' curriculum - all testify to the 'racist' consciousness expressed in the 'structures' of 'white' society."

How has this wicked idea of "racial guilt" come to seem respectable? Professor Mullard tries to justify it by means of the quaint lingo of Marxist sociology. "Capitalism," he argues, "requires stratification on racial lines - which requires racism as a justification for certain forms of political practice."

In the face of such language it is very hard to gain acceptance for the truth. But let us repeat it in any case. Liberal democracy (which is what the Marxist really means "by capitalism") has repeatedly endeavoured to make individuals equal before the law, to introduce a politics of freedom and toleration and to render every institution open to talent; in short, to remove every institutional obstacle to individual success.

For Professor Mullard it is precisely British institutions that must be overthrown, even though they are the true barrier to the "racism" which he professes to condemn. "From which," he claims, as a black, to have suffered. But then, one may reasonably wonder who is the true "racist" - the teacher who truthfully confronts the problems of multi-ethnic education in a modern city or the comfortable professor of "education" who declaims: "All the time I spent writing *Black Britain*, I found no solace, comfort or tolerance, but a disturbing desire to break, smash and riot - to believe: 'Whites! One day you'll have to pay!' (Chris Mullard: *Black Britain*, preface). The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

Philip Norman

Grey matter yes, green dots no

New York

The most persuasive TV ads here at present are those which tell Americans that if they care about their children's education, their financial future and the destiny of mankind, never mind keeping up with the neighbours, it's time they bought a home computer.

The world of the home computer owner, as depicted by these ads, is gauged over with domestic happiness rivaling that suggested by ads for toilet paper. It is populated by wise young parents and angelic-looking children whose learning difficulties are all now at an end. Machines which in the Seventies were targets for scorn and execration have become household pets. Faces young and old shine in the reflected glow of marvels wrought by those jolly green digits as they frisk across those friendly little screens.

Several authors and journalists friends now work entirely on computer word processors, and happily tell me how it has transformed their lives. One can understand why. Equipment of any kind is a time-honoured palliative both for the writer's loneliness and his chronic fear that what he does isn't "real" work. The computer offers multitudinous escapes and diversions from the recurrent nightmare of sitting and staring at a blank page.

My friends have taken me into their once lonely studios, now bustling word processor centres, and have proudly shown me the instrument of their redemption. I have watched as the little screen displayed English prose rendered into phosphorescent green columns as malleable as an airline departure board.

I have seen that clever digit dance along to perform the amendments and erasures which I still stubbornly carry out by hand. I have seen the lightning swivel action whereby whole paragraphs can be moved forward or backward in the text. At such times, I forbear to suggest that in well thought out writing, paragraphs do not trundle about like so many spare bits of furniture.

As a tyro journalist, I followed the general example and worked straight on to a typewriter. Journalists do not speak of writing but of "bashing" things out. The typewriter induces a shallow trance in which tired thoughts and second-hand phrases flow from the memory through the fingertips, never detouring to the mind. I weighed myself from typing to handwriting, first of all, to give myself time to think.

The disadvantages of writing by hand are obvious. One feels perpetually engaged in a school homework, and one develops blisters. The advantage is that I can earn my living anywhere in almost any circumstances, using the nearest stumps of pencil and old envelopes. I can write in taxis and in airport lounges. I can turn the most empty boredom to profit, and endlessly

defeat the world's conspiracy to waste my time. Now they tell me I should give up all that and voluntarily shackle myself to two thousand pounds-worth of plastic.

"But," my friends say, patiently, consider the computer's power of information-storage. You can put all your background material, research and interviews, on to floppy discs and thereafter "call up" anything to the screen at the touch of a button.

But I already have a good information-storage system. It is called the notebook. Its contents can be "called up" by reading the index table on its cover. It is pleasing, a companion on difficult journeys, a pocket confessional for inadmissible mistakes. I keep all my old notebooks and enjoy re-reading them. There is the black police notebook I used for my Beatles biography, the black and red Chambers notebook in which I recorded my first year in New York. There is the chic brown Italian notebook, with the sales receipt still inside. I am keeping for my new novel. Where is the friendliness or tactile pleasure in a floppy disc?

The clinking argument for the word processor in my friends' minds is its print-out mechanism. "No more typing," they say, "you make all your corrections on the screen, then you tell the computer to print and it prints."

Typing, for me, is no drudgery: it is an emotional climax in which all those handwritten drafts, made in airports, lounges and waiting-rooms, achieve legible - will it be plausible? - form. I enjoy my wrestling bouts with the Adler portable I bought for £20 12 years ago, whose keys at my fingers like miniature press-ups (I'm enjoying using it now). And if I should make a mistake, I have five totally mobile and versatile digits on each hand with which to correct it.

I suspect that my friends, for all their transformed working lives, are vulnerable to a trance, more insidious than any mere type-writer's. It is easy to tell which books or articles have been written with a computer's aid. They read in a strange, flat, glib, floppy discy way, and every paragraph seems loose, as if you could move it forward or backward.

Soon, perhaps, computers will come pre-programmed for literary composition, able independently to rattle off anything from a Jeffrey Archer-style bestseller to a profile for *Rolling Stone*. Indeed, judging by the recent output of both the foregoing, I think it may be happening already.

There is one aspect of my prejudice for which my non-literary friends can bless me. I am not a word processor bore. When people at parties learn I am a writer and ask if I have a word processor, I always give the same answer. "Yes," I say, tapping my head. "In here."



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THE LIBYAN CONNEXION

It has always been clear to anyone prepared to pay close attention to Mr Arthur Scargill's words and deeds that he will stop at nothing to win total victory over the Government. To that end he is, if necessary, prepared to see the union he has led in ruins rather than compromise. If that day comes, and his damaged and sacrificed members can endure no more, Mr Scargill will doubtless take comfort from the thought that the miners were not worthy of his leadership. Meanwhile, the miners' President-for-life, and his close associates on the NUM's executive, have been and are prepared to defend any kind of unconstitutional action, from law-breaking intimidation to defiance of the courts to gain their ends.

Since Mr Scargill has shown himself so contemptuous of democratic and constitutional values at home, it may be asked by some sophisticated why it should matter that he is now revealed as having been willing to take money from Colonel Gaddafi's Libya. Two such lines of argument are possible. One is that when the NUM desperately needs money, Mr Scargill cannot be expected to be too squeamish about its source provided there are no strings attached. The second is that what Mr Scargill has now done tells us no more about him than we already knew. If the world ranked reality higher than appearances, according to this argument, Mr Scargill's Libyan contacts are less important than his domestic contempt for the law.

Both arguments are fallacious. To the first, it has to be replied that it would be quite impossible to be sure that the NUM would never be called on by the Libyan regime (in unforeseeable future circumstances) for some kind of quid pro quo in the shape of moral support, or at least for restraint from moral condemnation. As for the second, though Mr Scargill's willingness to consort with a regime so heavily involved with international terrorism tells informed people no more than they knew already about his attitude of mind, it will be decisively informative to many other people who have not felt quite so sure.

To suggest that Mr Scargill has done no more than make an error of judgment which will

damage his cause in the propaganda war is to misunderstand the nature of his offence. If something is seen to be wrong in terms of public relations that is almost always because it is wrong — and what Mr Scargill has now done is different in kind from his other offences. If it were not so, Mr Neil Kinnock would not have instantly denounced Mr Scargill's contacts with the "vile" regime in Libya. If it were not so, Mr Norman Willis, the TUC's General Secretary, would not have demanded a categorical assurance from Mr Scargill that no financial support was sought from or received by the NUM from the "odious tyranny" in Libya.

Mr Willis received the assurance for which he asked, by clearly only because Mr Scargill, by then, had had second thoughts, having seen the weight of opinion in the labour movement against him. For he had earlier insisted that he would welcome money from anywhere, and had tried to draw a spurious distinction between the Libyan regime and Libyan "trade unions" (of which, of course, there are none in any sense understood by the term in the free world). What is more, he wholly ignored the implications of the televised meeting of the NUM's chief executive, Mr Roger Windsor, and Colonel Gaddafi.

Mr Scargill cannot see the enormity of this contact because he cannot see the enormity of his own general conduct at home. That, however, will now be very much clearer to many more people in Britain, not least significantly to many among the miners. Those who have courageously insisted on working in face of threats and violence will feel confirmed in the rightness of their position. Those who would like to work but are prevented from doing so in the areas where the power of Mr Scargill and his pickets reign may be given new heart, and some more of them, it is to be hoped, will return to work.

The difficulty is that those miners who dissent from Mr Scargill's actions have no effective way of making their case, particularly so long as he has the backing of a left-wing majority on the NUM's executive. Mr

Scargill is irremovable except by a resolution (after three months' notice) of the union's annual conference and he has scope to do much more harm still. Even so, he cannot hope to win his war against the constitution because he has now finally conjured up against himself all the forces whose sympathy he needs to succeed. He has alienated responsible trade union and Labour Party opinion, and the wider public recognizes quite clearly what he stands for. His conduct in considering help from Libya may, indeed, be only a straw but it is likely to be the straw that breaks the back of what remains of the tolerance in the labour movement for Mr Scargill's methods.

That was also plainly the initial impact that the Libyan revelations had on Mr Macgregor and the Coal Board yesterday. It is quite clear that the first intention was to announce that the NCB would refuse to enter talks with a NUM leadership that was prepared to take money from terrorists and assassins. Then on hearing that talks are again offered under the auspices of ACAS, the NCB chairman (or was it the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker?) changed his mind. The talks will take place and meanwhile, the coal board has nothing more to say. So confused a response at the NCB is less than inspiring. But the NUM seems to have reflected a sensible insistence by the Government that Mr Scargill should be given no pretext for blaming the coal board if the strike continues through his intransigence.

Even more important, however, was the assurance Mr Peter Walker seemed clearly to be conveying in the Commons yesterday that the miners' leader can expect no further concessions to add to the (already too generous) terms now on offer. Since Mr Walker also recognized the probability that the NUM will continue with their "totally unreasonable and unwarranted demand" for every pit to remain open, it is hardly likely that tomorrow's talks will be fruitful. But at least the public will be better aware, after the events of the weekend, of what is really at stake.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CAMERA

It has become unthinkable that we could celebrate any of the great national anniversaries or pageants — like the State Opening of Parliament next week — without the presence of television cameras. Complaints may be voiced about, say, subordinating the natural rhythm of a wedding to the broadcasters' camera cues or the turning of Remembrance Sunday into a fashion parade. But since the Coronation was televised in 1953, cameras have on such occasions served the nation. We participate vicariously in an entertaining spectacle; and a sense of community is affirmed. This function goes to the heart of the notion of public service broadcasting and it is vital for the health of the BBC that for such broadcasts the public still tends to turn to it.

This function of cameras was alluded to in the letter from Mr Tebbitt which we published yesterday. Those scenes in Brighton were no celebration — yet perhaps they were. Mr Tebbitt's strength of mind, in his

pain and discomfort, his delicate treatment by a team of firemen: here was a drama with a happy outcome, a cause for praising victim and rescuers. The camera's pictures appealed ineluctably to our common humanity. They fomented our sense of outrage. The pictures were necessary, Mr Tebbitt himself says, as a way of bringing home the mundane horror of terrorist bombing. When the IRA says after the event that its object is "government" or "state", we have seen the individual people killed and injured in the assault, the rubble and the waste. On this occasion television did not alienate. It served to bring together a community under external attack.

The circumstances of Mr Tebbitt's rescue were special. As reported, the fire service welcomed the camera crew's bright lights in illuminating the shattered hotel. The pictures went out live, too; it would take a very sobered editor to have sacrificed their immediacy to scruples about privacy. Yet such scruples are needed. Ministers of the

Crown are public figures, even in their pyjamas. In other circumstances, with private individuals (wives, for example) television should draw a veil over suffering; a clever director would find other pictures to make the point.

Mr Tebbitt suggests a line be drawn between publicity of terrorist acts and mere accidents. Yet cameras, controlled by a scrupulous editor, have their place in recording disaster. For in even the most banal of accidents the demeanour of victims, rescuers and bystanders can hold up a not always flattering mirror of ourselves and our society. Where a line needs to be drawn is between incidents where the camera, an innocent eye, records an event and those — demonstrations, picket lines and the like — where the presence of the cameras incites, where television itself becomes an actor in the play. Editors, broadcasting organizations and their cameras run a regular risk of being manipulated by belligerents to provide free publicity for stage-managed events. They are aware of it.

Cost of justice

From Mr Julian Trahair
Sir, Your editorial of October 19 concerning the cost of justice has a sting in its tail. For the main part you deal with the unfairness of the legal aid system to the unassisted private litigant, and then conclude by attributing fault in part to "the grossly inflated cost of litigation caused by high fees".

Since court fees are not substantial, this must refer to the fees of the legal profession. Your conclusion, in that it takes a ritual swipe at the legal profession is highly fashionable and the advantage of making a gross generalization at the end of an article is that you do not have to justify it.

In my opinion, as a solicitor with experience of civil litigation in the provinces, the work done is properly represented in the legal fees charged. I therefore take issue with your statement that only because I disagree with it, but because I believe that editorialists should only contain strongly expressed opinions which are the result of clear and careful reasoning.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN TRAHAIR,
Treluggan Manor,
St Erney,
Landrake, Cornwall.

tember 12) will persist if he argues that fortification must always be *à la Maginot* or that the only non-military objection to it turns on the sterilisation of some farm land in Germany.

There are many other objections. First, political: the building of anything like a Maginot Line along the central front would so dramatise the division of the two Germanies as to ensure a West German veto even on the start of the work.

Second, financial: permanent fortification of the steel and concrete type has always been expensive, sometimes unbearably so, as the attenuation of the Maginot Line at the Belgian frontier in 1936 itself demonstrated. At Maginot prices, adjusted to 1984 values, a similar line along 500 miles of the inner German border would cost £250,000, or rather more than either the British or West German annual defence budgets.

Third, diplomatic: a central European Maginot would certainly be denounced, and perhaps genuinely regarded by the Warsaw Pact as strategically provocative.

Finally, military: fortification *à la Maginot* consumes quantities of troops better employed in mobile defence, while its high visibility allows an enemy to contemplate means of breaching it at his leisure. The fall of the Bar-Lev Line and ramparts to the Egyptians in 1973 was the result of long experimentation by their engineers in the remoteness of the Western Desert.

But effective fortification need not be *à la Maginot*. Nato fears of the Warsaw Pact armies centre

essentially on their possession of a force of 19,000 tanks. The tank, though conceived 70 years ago this Christmas, remains a highly effective and adaptable weapon. But it has always suffered from a simple disability: unaided, it cannot cross a ditch more than half its length wide and a third of its length deep. Confronted by such an obstacle, it must await the arrival of a bridging vehicle or an engineering team.

While it waits, it is vulnerable to direct and indirect fire, as even more so are the bridgers while at work. Ditches of the desired section can now be created in a twinkling if the ground is prepared beforehand with buried pipeline, to be filled when required with liquid explosive, at costs approximate to the laying of domestic water mains. So low are the costs that deep belts of such pipelines might be laid athwart all the tankable country immediately west of the German border.

The advantages of such preparation — perhaps to be supplemented by the laying of inert minefields — scarcely need enumeration. Because invisible, it would not dramatise the division of the two Germanies; it could scarcely be represented as provocative; it would reveal its characteristics to anyone bent on nullifying it. Moreover it would allow large-scale economies in troops needed for mobile defence, while adding little to Nato spending.

Yours etc,
JOHN KEEGAN,
80 St Peter's Street,
Islington, N1,
October 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bringing back Ethiopia from the brink of starvation

From the President of Magdalen College, Oxford

Sir, We must of course do all that we can to help the starving people of Ethiopia, but if similar catastrophes are to be avoided in future it is important to recognize that the fundamental cause of the present crisis is not the weather but Government policies.

In 1982 I was asked by the Government of Ethiopia to head a large team of Western economists and to prepare a comprehensive study of economic policy. In our report of September of that year we emphasized the deteriorating conditions in the countryside and stated quite frankly that the major weakness in the economy has been agriculture. In the agricultural sector as a whole production increased only 1.7 per cent a year (from 1974-75 to 1979-80). That is, agricultural output per head declined on average about 0.8 per cent a year. A continuation of this trend would have dire consequences as it would result in the rapid impoverishment of the sector which contains 85 per cent of the nation's population. Clearly, this cannot be allowed to continue.

Alas, it was allowed to continue. Our warning was ignored, our policy suggestions were rejected and the report itself was suppressed by the Government with the acquiescence of the sponsoring United Nations agency.

My purpose in saying this is not to obtain credit for predicting the horrors that have befallen the Ethiopian people, indeed any competent economist could have seen what was coming — but to underline the argument in your leader (October 26) that unless policies are changed similar disasters can be expected to occur again in Ethiopia and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH GRIFFIN, President,
Magdalen College,
Oxford,
October 26.

From Dr David Hamilton
Sir, Having been associated with Ethiopia for over 30 years, I welcome with pride and relief the magnificent public and Government response that news of the famine there has engendered. I am particularly grateful to the church leaders for their timely intervention, and to numerous people like the two members of the Anglo-Ethiopian Society, each with long service in Ethiopia and previous experience of famine relief, who immediately offered to take unpaid leave to go out to assist in the relief camps.

It is not, however, about the need either to send more aid or to overcome the difficulties of its distribution that I now write. Longer-range issues also demand our attention.

The current preoccupation of the Ethiopian Government with internal affairs such as the launch of the new political party, the staging of its recent revolutionary celebrations, its insistence on military victory on both the Eritrean and Somali fronts, and its lack of concern in the human-rights field are elements which have clearly contributed to the present horrors.

As the British Government and the British people throw themselves

into a massive campaign to send help, in concert with similar campaigns in Europe and North America, we must, I feel, insist that the Ethiopian government and the Ethiopian people take note of the shortcomings that we see in the Ethiopian Government's present role.

The long-term solution to Ethiopia's increasing incapacity to feed itself must, surely, become its principal political priority. As for other African countries similarly placed, every encouragement should therefore now be given by all outside governments who profess "friendship" to promote priorities such as road-building, agricultural development and a genuine concern for human rights in place of the military and more political and nationalistic policies presently preferred in Addis Ababa.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HAMILTON,
164 Exmouth Road, SW9,
October 27.

From Mr W. David
Sir, Panic aid was discredited in Cambodia, so compounded the problem in West Africa that now we hear nothing of the worsening conditions in the sub-Sahara, and in Ethiopia will doubtless do little but maintain in comfort a vicious and murderous regime.

Any dispassionate observer of aid in action will be a penny to a pound that Army mess tins will be brimming and shop shelves bulging well before the first grain reaches a starving child.

Meanwhile the self-righteous call "for action", sit down to their dinner and, replete, have the energy to again attack the source of evil surplus — the wicked capitalist, exploitative West.

Panic, hysteria and, yes, hypocrisy are a poor recipe for rational thought, but without a clear plan, there will be no other than nature's solution: people surplus to subsistence will die in misery. So far, we have found only one — however imperfect — system of achieving a reasonable life on earth: free economic man working within a framework of just law.

The first calls for aid to be tied to a freedom platform are coming from the Reagan Administration; and you, Sir, made the same point today (leading article, October 27) — but that was safely in relation to Russia's land problems.

Yours faithfully,
W. DAVID,
29 Farnham,
Hamstead, NW3,
October 27.

From Dr John Black
Sir, The recent publicity given to the famine in Ethiopia has given an incomplete and inaccurate picture of the situation. The impression has been given that the famine can largely be relieved by sending aid through Ethiopia and that the areas affected by war, the provinces of Tigray and Eritrea, are inaccessible. In fact, the Tigrayans offered safe conduct to food convoys from Ethiopia into the southern part of Tigray, but this offer was not taken up by the Ethiopian Government.

Maiden Castle dig

From Professor Emeritus C. F. C. Hawkes, FBA

Sir, English Heritage's reasons for its Maiden Castle dig, as disclosed by its Chief Executive (October 19) in reply to Mr Tatton-Brown, of the British Archaeological Trust (October 13), are of a most surprising kind, which may allay some of the fears, which its press release aroused, of its intending the excavation to be simply a showpiece. The 1986 World Congress, based on Southampton, will see it on a tour that will also include Professor Cunliffe's Danebury, comparison between the two cannot fail to be instructive.

Mortimer Wheeler's excavations, 1934-37, did indeed leave more to be revealed about the earliest settlement, the sequence (apparently broken in the Bronze Age) on to the Iron Age fortress, Roman temple and Saxon burial, and the difficult eastern entrance with its (parly) "war" cemetery. But the dig should neither belittle his methods, the most advanced of his day, nor cloak some mistakes that he made, and some misinterpretations: notably those that presumed a connexion with Caesar's conquest of Britain, disproved by his own excavations there in 1938 (published 1957).

It should follow up long-standing criticisms by setting its own fresh findings alongside his, while leaving no doubt of the debt that research upon him owes to his brilliance. If the senior director keeps both purposes steadily in view, his dig will be good archaeology, and also good manners.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HAWKES,
19 Walton Street,
Oxford,
October 21.

Protection of churches

From the Secretary of the Victorian Society

Sir, Lord Sandford (October 3) argues that the word "exemption" should not be used to describe the Church of England's position on listed-building control since the Church has its own system, which he claims is both stricter and more successful. This special pleading should not go unchallenged. Your own leader emphasized that the Anglican Church was indeed given a special exemption in 1913 and that other denominations have enjoyed the same exemption largely by oversight.

Over the past 70 years public attitudes towards the preservation of historic buildings have radically altered, with greater protection now accorded to listed buildings. But in

Causes of caries

From the Director General of the Sugar Bureau

Sir, In his letter of October 18, Mr Watson James writes that the consumption of sugar is directly related to the incidence of dental decay.

Sugar is one of a number of carbohydrates, any of which can be fermented by bacteria and cause caries. Dental caries is a multifactorial phenomenon that requires at least three preconditions: the presence of a susceptible tooth; the presence of micro-organisms; and dietary factors.

Dental caries is primarily a disease of children. However, over the last 10 years there has been a dramatic improvement in children's teeth mainly attributable to fluoridation. In the UK, for example, there has been a 3.6 per cent decrease between 1973 and 1983 in the number of decayed.

Religion in schools

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, May I assure your readers concerned about the teaching of religious education (letters, October 24) that the National Union of Teachers has not called for the end of compulsory religious education in our schools. It is most unfortunate that some press reports have created that impression.

The union recognizes that the issue is a sensitive one, and that is why we are seeking the views of teachers and religious organizations alike. But we are not embarking on a consultation exercise in order to find

in Eritrea and Tigray the rural areas and small towns are under the control of Eritrean and Tigrayan administrations and have been supplied for many years by road from Sudan, in the north. The road is rough, difficult and slow, as I have seen for myself, but it is well supplied with fuel and repair stations and it works.

It is now extremely urgent that these two provinces, whose populations are suffering from famine as severely as the rest of Ethiopia, are helped. The international and voluntary agencies must make available food and transport for the northern route from Sudan. If this is not done these areas will not benefit from the aid which is now being organized.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BLACK,
54 Ruskin Park House,
Champion Hill, SE5,
October 26.

From Mr James Skinner

Sir, It is ironic that on the same day (October 27) that your front page headline announces the mobilization of funds and food for famine relief in Ethiopia a small paragraph inside reports the failure of negotiations for replenishing the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Public opinion has rightly been aroused by the horror of seeing on television families dying of starvation in Ethiopia. Our political leaders have been obliged to respond to the public outcry which has ensued.

But 40,000 children are dying every day in the Third World from hunger and disease. We have the knowledge and resources to prevent these deaths. All we need is the pressure of public opinion on our democratically elected leaders to make them support action against the causes of poverty not merely to react to isolated symptoms of poverty which happen to attract the attention of the media for a few days.

IFAD was set up specifically and exclusively to help the poorest people in the Third World to be able to feed themselves. Its work is now threatened by the refusal of Britain, the US and other Western countries to replenish its resources. Similarly, the highly successful operations of the World Bank in the same field are threatened by the same countries' refusal to give the IDA (International Development Association) the resources it needs.

Politicians will tell you, when charged with our failure to meet our responsibilities to those who are starving, that there are no votes in foreign aid. This cynical response can be disproved if the electorate were only to realize that votes can be more effectively than cheques in helping those whom we see starving on our television and the hundreds of millions more whom we never see.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES SKINNER,
Heron House,
Chiswick Mall, W4,
October 27.

Threat to mountain

From the Chairman of the Scottish Wild Land Group

Sir, The Secretary of State for Scotland must feel ashamed that somebody of the artistic standing of Mr Heaton Cooper should be moved to write to you (October 18) questioning the prospect of commercial afforestation on the Creag Meagaidh SSSI (site of special scientific interest). It has been rightly said recently that "tourists don't come to Scotland to drive through tunnels of sitka spruce" — but there is more to it than that.

By permitting afforestation, Mr Younger has, not for the first time, crudely breached the supposedly protective legislation of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, and gone against the advice of the Nature Conservation Council. He was careful to say that the Creag Meagaidh decision did not prejudice any future decision on afforestation on SSSIs. In other words, no designated site in Scotland is safe.

Conservation bodies in Scotland are united in their condemnation of Mr Younger's decision. There was an important principle at stake and it has been most regrettably ignored. The whole system of approval and fiscal advantages for commercial planting is out of kilter and needs overhauling — as was recommended by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee in 1980. Otherwise it is clear that more important conservation sites will disappear under the bleak monoculture of sitka spruce, whose end products, we would suggest, in no way justify the vast sums of public money expended in producing them.

Yours faithfully,
FRED JARVIS, General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WC1,
October 25.

Among the Frenghish

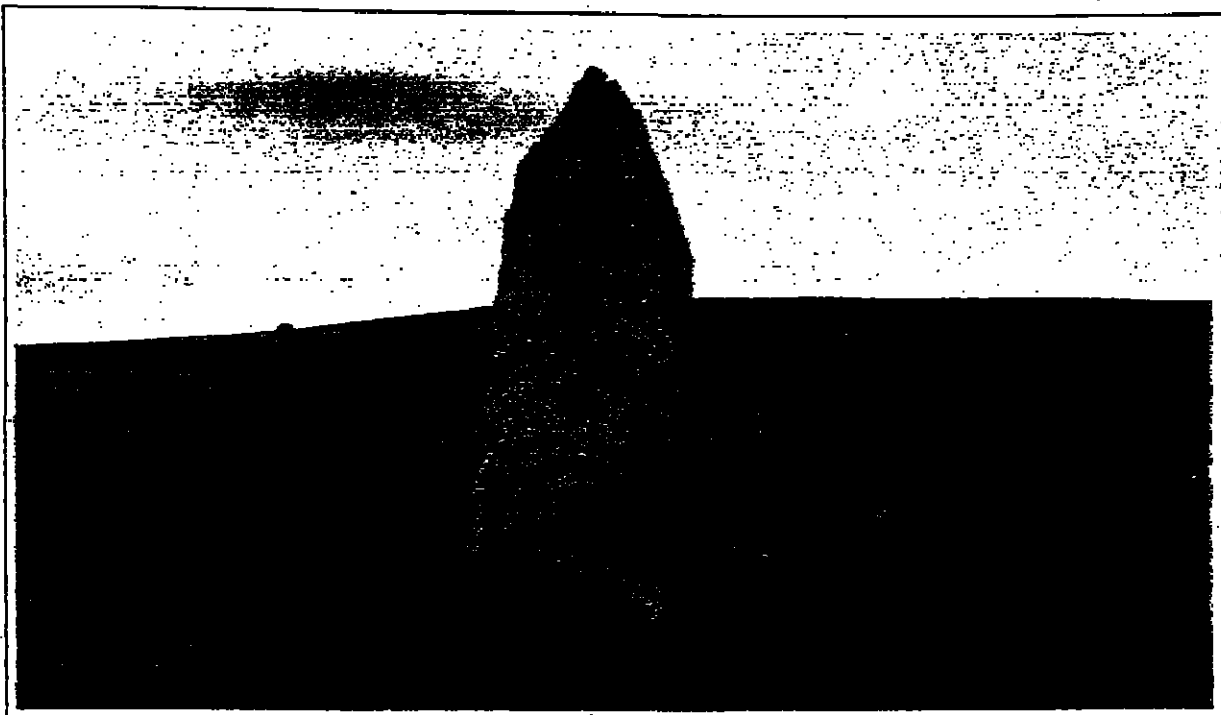
From Mr Sebastian Peake

Sir, It did seem a strange admission from a spokesman for the assembled Houses of Parliament to President Mitterrand's speech that "over 90 per cent of us couldn't understand what he was talking about".

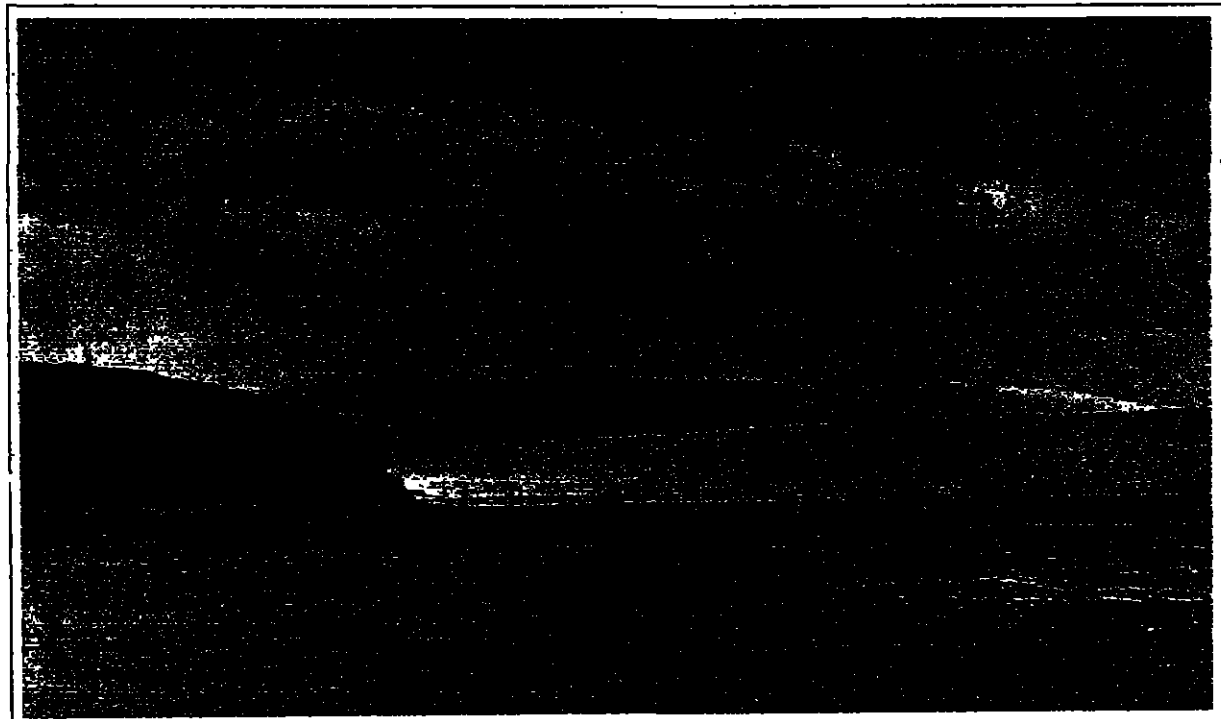
Anybody would have thought that he was speaking in a provincial dialect of Serbo-Croat, rather than in the beautiful and ubiquitous French language, which, I think, would be generally accepted as the alternative lingua franca of the educated European.

Yours sincerely,
SEBASTIAN PEAKE,
30 Gander Road, SW4,
October 25.

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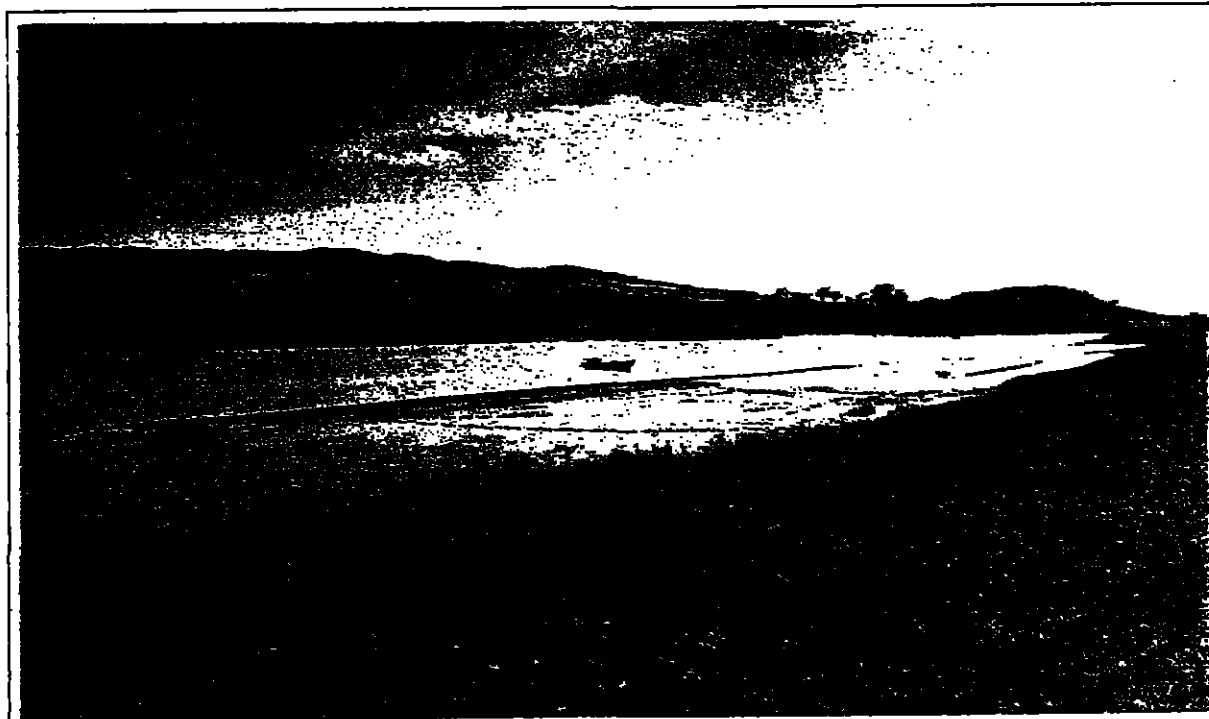
These gas liquids, travelling unseen not so very far from the bloodied ruins of the dreaded Dunnotar Castle, will later be split into ethane, butane, propane and natural gasoline.



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North Kent feels itself neglected, but tomorrow the Queen is visiting Maidstone, Rochester and Gillingham to see developments as the area turns towards Europe. Anne Warden reports

There is grandeur in the view east along the Thames beyond Dartford. North Kent is not a pretty place, compared with the usual images given to the county, of hops, apples and oast houses, but the lights of its industries at night have an air of power that is much more compelling.

The stretch of land between Dartford and the Isle of Sheppey, with the Medway and its towns, Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham in the middle, has stirred the imagination not only of Charles Dickens, whose father worked at Chatham, but also, with interesting grimmish, of George Orwell even though his trip in 1931 was to pick hops. His "proles" in 1984 are thought to owe something to the working people he met in North Kent.

Orwell also noticed, in *A Clergyman's Daughter*, that they did not much like the idea of charity, and the region's efforts to help itself in its present plight echo something of the same.

North Kent is at a watershed: it is more than 400 years since it has had to consider changes in its economy on the scale it faces now. The reason is last year's closure of Chatham naval dockyard, founded in 1547. The Ministry of Defence's cuts to

the Navy ended 7,000 jobs at Chatham and left an area said to be at least as big as the City of London to turn to new use. The blow came after the closure in 1982 of the BP oil refinery on the Isle of Grain, with 1,700 workers. The area's other big industries, cement and paper-making, are also shedding staff as new technologies quicken their processes.

Planning the future is not eased by North Kent's patchiness. Its unemployment blackspots, the Medway towns and Sheerness, as badly hit as any of the places thought of as the country's worst, belie the smattering of prosperity more typical of the South-East. The region is having to cope with a scramble for office space on its well-to-do western fringe, as well as the joblessness around the sands and marshes of the Medway.

The other spur to far-reaching change is the road link between the county and the rest of the country, probably the first since the Romans built Watling Street across Kent and beyond two thousand years ago. North Kent is still waiting for its section of the M25 London orbital route, joining it to the national motorway network, but after 1986, when it is finished, the development it brings is expected to overtake the

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, believes that "historically, the people of Kent have proved themselves capable of adapting to new circumstances" and that now, in "another time of considerable change, a new challenge will be squarely faced." Mr Leigh-Pemberton, who is 57, was appointed governor of the Bank of England in December 1982. He is a former chairman of Kent County Council. His family has a 2,500 acre agricultural, forestry and sporting estate near Sittingbourne.

He believes Kent's unemployed may have to be willing to move and be flexible in their efforts to find work - though he expects opportunities to grow with the efforts to attract companies to the area.

North Kent

Going down to Kent: looking along the oldest of all routes, the Thames, from Northfleet, and right, landmarks of North Kent, the figureheads and the chapel clock, both at Chatham Dockyards

region's old reputation for manufacturing, and transform it into an international distribution centre, with warehousing and transit facilities.

Perhaps the only way in which North Kent can be certain of keeping to its traditions in the future is in its reputation for independence. The county boasts that its people forced William the Conqueror to accept their terms, hence its motto, "Invicta," unconquered.

Today it is their grand vision of the future, as well as the unemployment problem, that makes many North Kent's leaders think that the region has been treated badly. They consider themselves the nation's link with the rest

of Europe, left unrecognized, while the country has strained to pump money into declining places far north and west, away from the industrial centres of Europe, now Britain's main trading area.

Motorways are one area in which North Kent feels it has been neglected, and it might justifiably argue that the same has been true of last year's experimental introduction of freeports, which allow importers and exporters to avoid paying duties on their goods. North Kent's two proposed sites, Stone Marshes near Dartford, and Sheerness and Chatham, were not given the chance.

The region now has a strategy plan, adopted in 1982, to pool resources of its local authorities to improve employment prospects and change the region's image as "a declining industrial area." The county council admits that "certain parts of this urban area have a poor and unattractive environment."

Two years on, the strategy, conceived as closure loomed over Chatham Dockyard, is bringing results. County and district council leaders, as well as Kent West's EMBP, Ben Patterson, marched on the Government with a demand, headed in 1983, for an Enterprise Zone to

encourage industry by offering simplified planning terms and exemption from certain taxes. So far the five sites appear to be filling up well.

The county council's employment fund has allocated £1,250,000 in its first two years, to help alleviate youth unemployment in particular, as well as to support the region's seven enterprise agencies, which give advice to new businesses, and for training schemes and other efforts to increase the numbers of jobs.

This year the local authorities have established a Kent Economic Development Board, an independent body chaired by Sir Ronald McIntosh, Chairman of APV Holdings. One proposal is for a business expansion scheme to offer tax relief to encourage investors in Kent to set between £20,000 and £30,000 into local companies which cannot find financial backing elsewhere.

One disappointment has been the Department of Trade and Industry's refusal to grant north-west Kent the status of a Derelict Land Clearance Area, which would have paid all of local authorities' land-clearance costs, and 80 per cent of private developers'.

Now the local authorities are

considering other ways to win help with starting the redevelopment of such areas as the former Imperial Paper Mills site at Northfleet. The Government has said it will consider some aid with clearance at Chatham.

Some of the big companies already established in Kent, such as Blue Circle, the international cement company, which has its biggest British works at Northfleet, and GEC Avionics, Kent's largest and GEC's largest, are helping by seconding staff to new industrial developments in the county, taking on the training of young people, and working with enterprise agencies.

Amid the country's efforts to increase trade with Japan, including a trip to Osaka in the past month, Gillingham can boast so it is believed, that it is the only British town with a Japanese twin or rather, two, the towns of Ito and Yokosuka. Indeed, the exploits of one of Gillingham's sons are not a bad example of North Kent's adaptability, and some might say adaptability as well. Will Adams, born in 1564, piloted a Dutch ship which ran aground in Japan in 1600, but picked himself up to become an

honoured samurai warrior.

Still a draw for tourists

North Kent's patchiness becomes a virtue for tourism. Perhaps unlike the resorts along the county's east coast, which rely more heavily on attracting visitors, the north has variety. It foresees growing scope as a conference centre, and the traces of its history have always had drawing power.

Efforts are afoot to attract more of the foreign visitors arriving or leaving through Dover or Folkestone. They make up a quarter of all Britain's visitors from abroad, and already contribute £65m a year of tourism. That is expected to go up as the numbers using the Channel ports, encouraged by the M25, double before the end of the century. The region's variety, compared with many other parts of Britain, is astonishing: it has tourist attractions derived from the sea, its old industries, the Roman and Norman influences, past political struggles, pilgrimages, and many well-known people, who have lived there, all within an area of about 30 miles east to west, and less than that from north to south.

Chatham's historic dockyard, when it has found a ship to crown the glories of its old buildings and the naval industries still working there, is likely to draw many tourists, if interest in Britain's seafaring past, at other ports such as Portsmouth, which boasts the Mary Rose, is anything to go by. The dockyard's administrator, Alastair Wilson, believes that it will be "one of the most complete pre-nineteenth century dockyards anywhere in existence."

The dockyard, where Nelson's flagship, *Victory*, was built in 1765, is also looking for more craft industries to join the two commercial companies still working there, one making ropes in the 1,128ft-long Ropery, and another making flags.

Rochester, a few miles away, can offer the second-oldest cathedral in Britain, and its annual Dickens

continued on page 18

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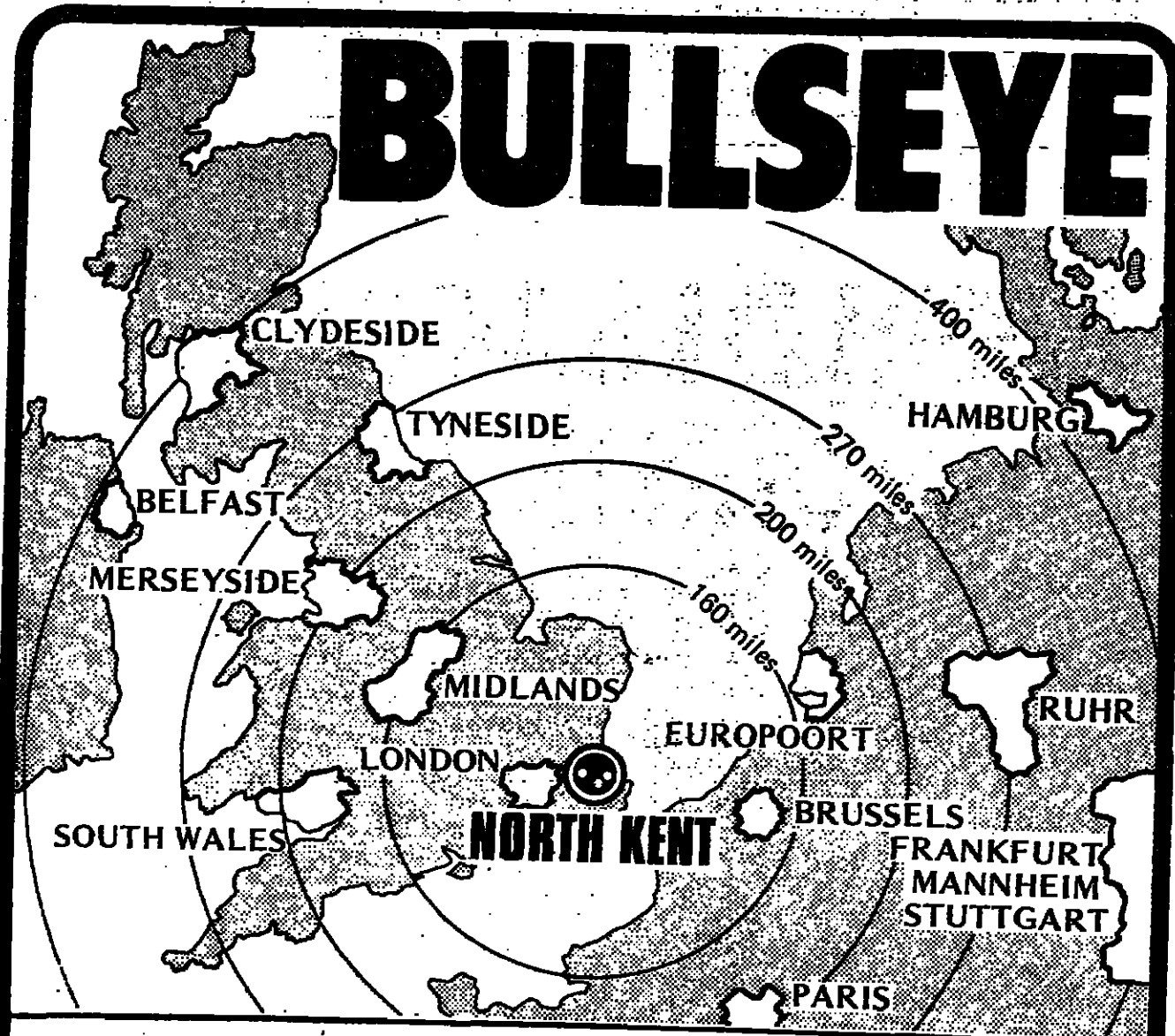
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Industry puts its all into revival

North Kent is one of the country's oldest industrial areas and, entering paper-making and tanning - which would lead to a long before the industrial revolution spurred other more widely noted places the creation of wealth. Dartford claims the country's first commercial paper mill, founded centuries ago, by Sir John Spelman, jeweller to Queen Elizabeth I. The area's mineral riches were known at least 50 years ago, when the church at Swanscombe was carved on a solid block of chalk. Further east, at Chatham, the shipbuilding and engineering industries for the nation's defence, the sea, began on the Medway with the building of the Gec Dieu in 1488. The dockyard proper was begun in 1547.

It was the dockyard's closure last year which stung the region into enormous efforts to revive itself. About 4,000 of its 7,000 workers were left without jobs. The prospect of Chatham's naval shipyard being reduced to its re-industrial mud once more, with acres of derelict land to be cleared at developed, has been a fearful blow. The Chatham dockyard's closure last year, with the loss of 1,000 jobs, was the end of a chapter in the area's history. The dockyard was founded in 1547. The men and paper industries too, have closed since 1982. The men and paper industries too, have closed since 1982. The men and paper industries too, have closed since 1982.

before chemical changes can happen, the company is to make cement raw material cakes by using newly developed, longer lasting cloths in its filter presses which squeeze out the moisture. The company is also closing its old Holborough works in Soodland because of the wet-to-dry process developments, and is moving the works' special cements - sulphate resisting and oil well cements - to Swanscombe, again for the sake of more efficient manufacturing with the disappearance of 230 jobs.

One of the few big Kent companies not shedding staff is GEC Avionics, the county's largest industrial employer with nearly 6,000 employees at Rochester. The company, which was formerly Marconi Avionics, has been in Kent virtually since its founding in the mid-fifties. It has won Queen's Awards for Technology and Exports for two years running and has exported more than £750m worth of goods in the past decade. Its various plants at Rochester - including Falcon Building with its specially-stabilized foundations for precision manufacturing - produce guidance

The aim is to improve derelict areas, develop Chatham Dockyard, progress on industrial estates and help local firms

systems, combat aircraft controls, test systems and carry out flight automation research. Another company with its UK production and head office in Rochester is Fisher Control Valves, which employs 520 people. Akzo Chemie, the Dutch company, has works at Gillingham; Lloyds of London has had 1,000 administrative staff at Gun Wharf, Chatham, since 1978. Lucas CAV, producing rotary pumps, has been in the Medway Towns since 1947, and employs 2,500 people. Jubilee Clips, in the area for 70 years, boasts its inroads into the Japanese market.

But it has been clear for some time that North Kent's problems for outweigh individual companies' successes. The Medway Towns' unemployment rate is about 16.5 per cent, with 14,407 registered. Kent's total last year - 64,144 by December - was thought to be going up faster than in the rest of the country, with the worst-hit areas in the north of the county, which had a total of 24,063 jobless at the end of 1983. The number of long-term unemployed has been increasing and the gap has widened between areas like Maidstone and Dartford, where unemployment is relatively low, and the

hard-hit Medway Towns and Sheerness.

The closure of big industries, like the Isle of Grain refinery and the Chatham dockyard, have left great swathes of land to be cleared for new use. Office developments appear to be lopsided, with the most vigorous markets on the western fringe, for example in Sevenoaks. Jobs in construction have expanded in Sheerness and Dartford, and North Kent's service industries have grown, but manufacturing jobs have dwindled by 12.7 per cent. The area has been left off the government's Assisted Areas map, which also determines the distribution of most of the funds from the European Communities and its Enterprise Zone is still at an early stage.

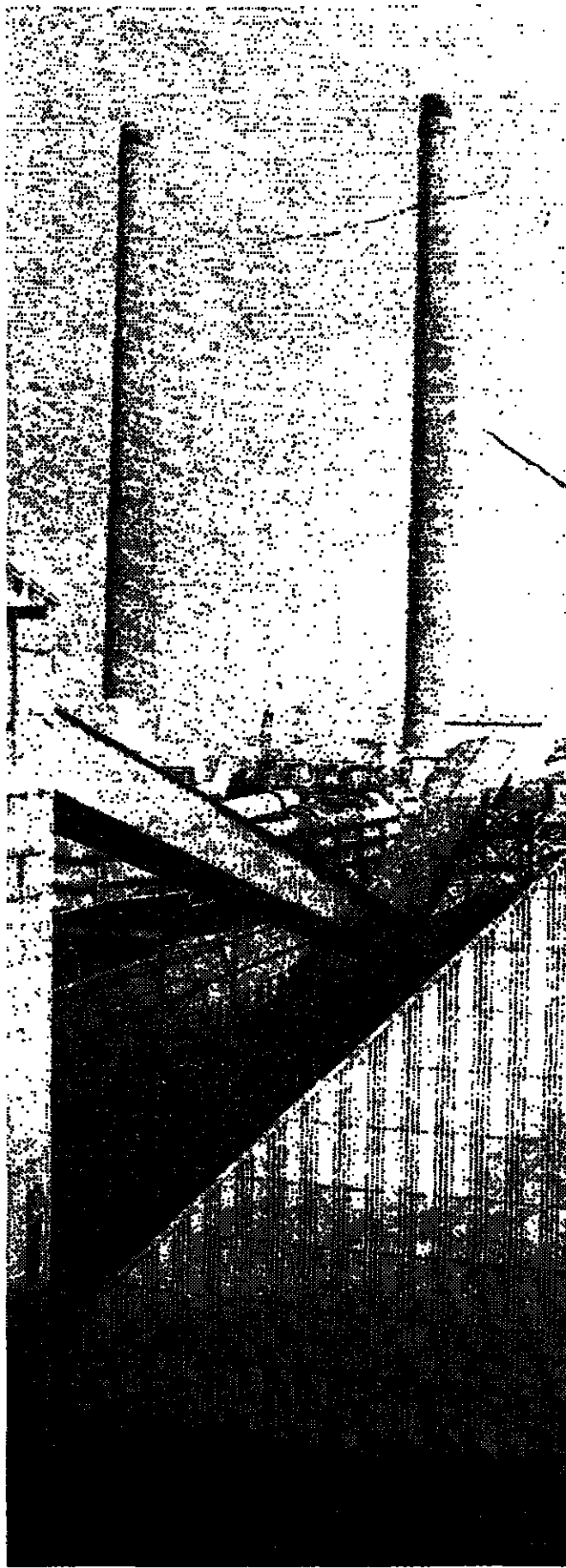
North Kent has also lost out on the Government's other trade experiment, the introduction of freeports, which are expected to increase exactly the kind of transit business the county is hoping to secure, by easing import and export duties and restrictions. Now hope for the potential freeport sites put forward, Stone Marshes and Sheerness/Chatham, are pinned on the experiment working elsewhere.

Kent has a relative lack of high technology industries, which are deemed to be the job-makers of the future. The effort to achieve this in North Kent is likely to be concentrated on making site attractive and providing the transport links that have seen companies mushrooming along the M4 west of London.

Local authorities in North Kent have united to produce a strategy for rescuing the region: aiming to improve derelict areas, develop Chatham dockyard, push forward progress on the region's industrial estates, expedite road schemes and help local companies. The four district councils, Swale, Gillingham, Gravesham, and Rochester-upon-Medway, and the county council credit their joint effort with getting the Enterprise Zone and are jointly offering premises to small businesses under five schemes.

Prospects have brightened at Chatham Dockyard and the commercial port run by the Medway (Chatham) Dock Company has started operating with £11m Government backing. The main part of the dockyard has been taken over by the Government-backed English Industrial Estates, which claims there is "extremely high interest" from companies in developing the area.

Even so, the task, particularly in the main 360-acre area (where demolition is still going on) is colossal.



Blue Circle's cement factory at Northfleet, its biggest British works, where £26m is being spent to cut energy costs - but other changes will mean fewer jobs, a development all too common in the region

Unfair, says Mr Euro

Ben Patterson, Kent West's Euro-MP, believes the region has been unfairly treated in the allocation of funds, both from the Government and from the European Communities. "What really annoys local authorities", he says, "is that they are always lumped with the affluent South-East. It's an extraordinary policy, considering the unemployment rate."

One problem Kent now has to cope with was incentives such as assisted area status, drawing companies away from places such as the Medway towns to other parts of the country where they could get more benefits. But he does not believe solution would be to make the region an Assisted Area, even though one of the consequences, he says, "is that practically no European money goes to North Kent, whereas European money is slapped on with a great big brush for example to North Wales. The discrepancy is colossal."

Now, he says, he is trying to press for a way round the way money is distributed, and trying to increase funds which are not linked to Assisted Area status.

Mr Patterson, aged 45, is well-placed to put North Kent's case at Strasbourg. He has been European Democratic Group spokesman on the European Parliament's social affairs and employment committee, and a member of the committee on budgetary control. Since this year's European elections he has been a member of the committee on economic and monetary affairs and industrial policy. He is a member of the Conservative Party's Bow group, and studied at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read modern and medieval languages; and at the London School of Economics.

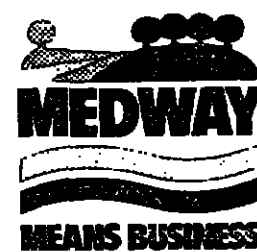
Patterson: "Practically, no European money goes to North Kent."



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NORTH KENT

The Enterprise Zone idea came late to the region, but is already giving cause for optimism

North West Kent's Enterprise Zone, which was given its status in November 1983, is one of the more recently begun in Britain. It might be fairly claimed that Kent, associated in so much official thinking with the prosperous South-East, has won its help particularly hard, and far behind places such as Glasgow's Clydebank.

It is only with the closure of the Chatham dockyard that North Kent's losses have begun to be seen as on the same scale as the demise of industries in Glasgow or elsewhere.

The region, indeed, has many of the same characteristics as the hard-hit west of Scotland, but in a smaller area: the Medway Towns, where most of the Enterprise Zone sites are, have suffered in the same way from having had what many see as too narrow an industrial base

to survive the economic recession without special help.

At the moment, even with the Enterprise Zone, North Kent's is a bleak situation in which it is putting a great deal of faith, in the hope of filling the 125 acres on five sites, on the strength of planning relaxations and tax concessions. It is an enormous undertaking, for local councils, industries, and other bodies.

The Medway Towns already have many vacant offices and factories waiting for the industries they want to attract. It might seem, therefore, that building even more industrial units is folly. The estate agents' chronicles of empty factories still in working order - electricity sub-station on site, effluent treatment plant, loud-speaker system, and the rest - give an impression of left-over shells from past prosperity, ready for decline.

A lot of faith down among the empty factories

But early expectations have been high. Mr Patrick Jenkin, secretary of State for the Environment said during a helicopter tour of the zone that it was "way ahead" of some of the country's other enterprise areas, bringing 1,000 jobs before the final planning approval. Hopes at the start were that the zone would draw £100m of investment and create 12,000 jobs.

Now, a year into enterprise status, Kent County Council claims that the zone "may

become one of the most successful in the UK", because of the interest shown by industry. It says there has been "a constant flow of inquiries" to the Medway Development Office.

It appears that the provisions of an Enterprise Zone - the easing of planning controls, exemption from development land tax, local authority rates and industrial training levies, and allowances for capital expenditure - have greatly increased the numbers of companies inquiring about moving their businesses to North Kent.

Gillingham Business Park has occupants for more than 500,000 sq ft of its premises, including Tiffany Foods, Jubilee Clips, Amco Hydrospace, Lucas CAV, Photo Productions, Magnet and Southern, MFI, and B&Q Sports and Leisure. Developments is building an ice rink.

Grosvenor Developments, its developers, see "good design and construction" as among its priorities. The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Grosvenor Estates. Plans for the future include having banks and restaurants on the Park, which was inaugurated by Lord Trenchard, then Minister of State for Industry, in October 1979, before the area was given enterprise status. Charles Firth, Grosvenor's project manager,

One spin-off is that interest has grown in sites near the zone although they have different status

credits efforts to promote the park before enterprise status was given, for much of the interest which he says is increasing, in the park. The average space let per year for the past five years has been 100,000 sq ft a year.

The 23-hectare Temple Industrial Estate in Strood was an established industrial estate which had been left vacant in the past few years when enterprise status was given. Now 750,000 sq ft of floorspace has been taken, and occupants include Fisher Controls, Nestlé-down Beds, Gomba Stonefield, Millwood Joinery, Aughton Instruments, Procell Plastics and Fraber Engineering. Virtually

all the premises already built, it appears, have been sold.

One of the biggest developments on the Temple estate has been the setting-up of a £6m distribution centre by Tesco, the supermarket chain. Another is work on the former Martin Earles cement works on the site, being done by Blue Circle.

Medway City Estate, on 130 acres, of which 77 acres is Enterprise Zone, on the Frindsbury Peninsula on the north side of the Medway at Strood, has occupants including William T Eden (Importers), Medway Rice Company, Cliffe Construction, W E Haselden, and Auto Renovations, as well as 15 acres "under offer" and plans for industrial units and warehouses totalling another 215,000 sq ft.

The estate is divided into a number of zones, including about 26 acres of warehousing, and industrial high technology and "nursery" units; larger plots, some of up to 15 acres, on the edge of the Medway, an

undeveloped area of about 19 acres which still has to be filled and levelled, and 33.7 acres in a creek which it is hoped will be developed as a 500-berth marina including workshops, a clubhouse, and boat-standings.

Another 45 acres are the concern of Rochester Bridge Trust, a non-profit making charitable organisation, and another 29 acres make up the Howard Estate, of which 16 acres have Enterprise status.

A Staffordshire company, Clarke St Modwen, has taken on the first phase of development of another Enterprise Zone site, the Springhead Enterprise Park in Northfleet, together with Gravesham Borough Council. The aim is to develop, between 350,000 and 400,000 sq ft of floorspace on the 11-hectare "green field" site.

The other Enterprise Zone site is Imperial Business Estate on 17.5 hectares which include the former Imperial Paper Mill works, in Gravesend, and have a deep water jetty.

What the agencies do

North Kent's enterprise agencies are beginning to "move beyond their first task of giving advice. One, for example, the North West Kent Enterprise Agency, is investigating sites for small units in Dartford. But that is for the coming few years. At the moment many of the seven agencies, started by local individuals, companies and other groups, are working like many others across the rest of Britain, on low budgets and in small or old offices.

All have had hundreds of inquiries, involving vigorous efforts from their staffs. Among them, the Medway Enterprise Agency, is facing one of the hardest tasks as unemployment grows in its blackspot area.

In its first two years it has notched up 1,328 clients, and can claim 464 businesses started, with 1,234 jobs saved or created. Companies it has helped include a coffee-and-ta supply service run by Geoff Bradbury and his wife in Strood, and a company supplying sub-aqua diving equipment, run by brothers Stephen and Terence Knight, who have a sports shop in Gillingham.

So far, it says, there have been only 10 failures among first 321 starts it has counselled. Glyn Thomas, the agency's chairman, who is a local manager at GEC Avionics in Rochester, credits Gillingham's Pier Road development for solving some of the problems the agency first foresaw for very small businesses seeking a place in which to set up. He has also welcomed Rochester City's plans for small units at the near Foster Len factory in Strood, he says, the agency is involved in helping to save businesses in trouble. It is also considering starting up managed workshops, possibly on the lines of the workshops in Glasgow, established by Stewart Arden, whose help it has enlisted among others, for a study of feasibility.

The big business agent is strong in North Kent's agencies, as elsewhere, although smaller companies have been doing a hand, too. In Swale, the top of industrial Company Engineers, which was behind the setting-up of the Swale Enterprise Agency, now has 160 members.

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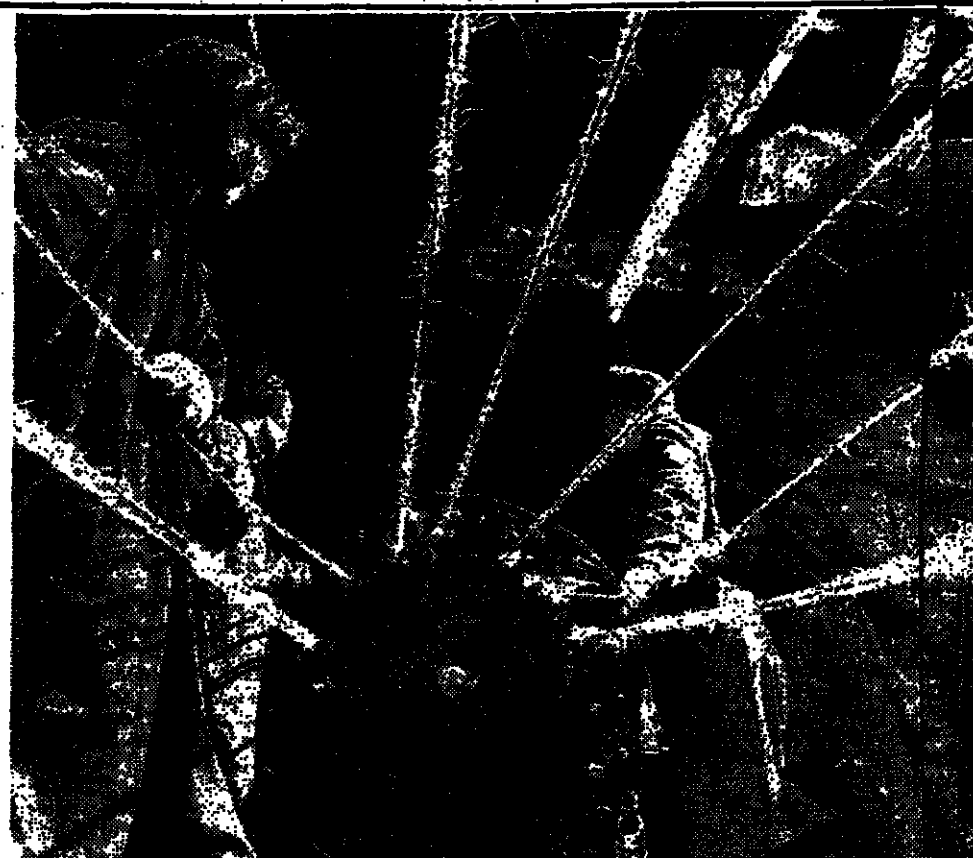
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festival in June, with colourful characters in costume. Further west, there is Brands Hatch motor-racing circuit, and another attraction, the Kent and East Sussex Railway counted an increase of 42 per cent in its visitors in 1982.

Hever Castle, the home of Henry VIII's wife Anne Boleyn, drew 27 per cent more visitors than in the year before, and Sir Winston Churchill's home, Chartwell, brings tourists from all over the world. North Kent is also on the pilgrim's route to Canterbury, and the towns along the Thames shore, and others further south, probably have more churches relatively close together than most other parts of Britain.

Even the grimmer parts have a claim to visitors' interest: Swanscombe, besides its cement works, also has Barfield Pit, now owned by The Nature Conservancy Council, where the skull fragments of what were believed to be the oldest prehistoric human remains in north-west Europe were found. Other historical sites include Fort Amherst, recently restored, at Chatham.

Next year is expected to draw extra tourists to Chatham, the starting point for the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race, which in the past has begun from capital cities like Lisbon in Portugal, and Gillingham's ice rink with be another attraction.

More people, it appears, are visiting places of interest. North Kent's strong feature, than in the past: tourist increased by 6 per cent in 1982, compared with a drop of 12 per cent for 1981. Already about 4 million tourists stay for more than one night in Kent each year, and even though three-quarters of them go to the east coast resorts, where 10 per cent of the working population have jobs connected with tour-



New life at Chatham Dockyard: ropemaking in the old works

ism, North Kent's 5 per cent still derive considerable amount of employment from it.

Kent claims that of the 4 million its 500,000 foreign visitors a year are the largest proportion of all staying visitors to the UK from any county outside London. A surprising number of tourist trips, 13 per cent, are thought to be connected with business, however, and that element appears to be particularly promising for North Kent.

Rochester and Wrotham, on the M20/A20, have new hotels aimed at the business tourist, a large part of the market, it appears, for the two big chains which have built them. Crest at Rochester Airport, and THE.

Kent County Council says the county has more than 100 places suitable for conferences, and has listed them in a guidebook. It also wants to see hotels or other developments for tourists on about 40 sites.

This year the council has been increasing its efforts to turn more from tourism to establishing the Kent Tourism Marketing Organization, with the aim of making Kent a destination for visitors' trips, rather than a place merely passed through.

The county has also forged its way ahead of the rest of Britain with an experiment in signposting to make tourist attractions and routes better-known. It has persuaded the Department of

Transport to let it lead a year trial, costing £250,000 by the end of the next financial year, to direct visitors' eyes of interest.

The county council has produced free holiday guides, and has been giving aid to keep tourism information centres open since the Government withdrew support in '83.

A number of the towns, including Dartford and Rochester, are promoting themselves as tourist areas, and North Kent's theatres deserve to be better known. Kent Opera, for instance, which has acquired a reputation far beyond its county boundaries, is to perform in November at Dartford's new The Orchard Theatre.

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M25: hindrance or a road to the county's salvation?

Present-day roads in North Kent, the route the Romans chose for their main artery from the Continent to the rest of Britain, are a sore point. Watling Street, linked to the Channel ports, through Dartford, to London and to Salop, on the other side of the county; but two thousand years on the region is still waiting for its 1980s link with the national motorway network: the Swanley to Sevenoaks section of the M25 orbital route. It is due to open in the spring of 1986 and will be the final link in the round-London motorway.

Capital obstacle

The M25's importance for Kent is seen as going far beyond the road structure. It is expected to open up possibilities for the established and newly-planned sea links in north Kent, increased business for those using Rochester Airport, and bringing Heathrow and Gatwick airports more easily within reach of Kent-based companies. The long-awaited road also already spawning distribution and transit centres.

The motorway problem has irritated all the more because the county has to contend with a block between it and the rest of the country which is bigger than any other man-made obstacle. (See where the capital London, its nearest neighbour, proved a hindrance because of the difficulties of getting goods and people through and beyond it and because it has encouraged the belief that neighbouring areas, such as north Kent, must be prosperous too, and so relatively less in need of spending on infrastructure.)

The difficulties have been heightened by the decline of north Kent's manufacturing industries, increasing the need for the region to sell itself as a transit route. Membership of the European Community has added to the traffic passing through it and from the continent. The frustration is mainly because the road communication problems have

come from the region's fringes and outside, rather than within. For itself, Kent has some fine, fast roads: the M20 through Maidstone, the M26 beyond Rochester, and the M25 between the M20 and M26. Even when the M25 is completed in two years' time, north Kent is likely to have to face further problems as traffic grows, and the biggest question mark is over the future of the Dartford Tunnel. The London and South East Regional Planning Conference, in its 1983-84 report, says that government estimates of the traffic expected to use the M25 "make no allowance for traffic generated by the motorway itself". It adds that a number of road lobby groups believe that the tunnel could be overloaded by the early 1990s, if not before, and are concerned at the difficulties of expanding its capacity.

Fears about the tunnel are all the more notable because it is only in the past few years that the tunnel's importance has been able to grow. It was only in 1980-17 years after the first £10m tunnel was opened - that a second tube was built at a cost of £40m. It was only in April last year that the M25 on the far side of the tunnel opened up better links with the M11 through East Anglia to the Midlands. For the M25 link with the M1 and A1, the tunnel has had to wait more than 20 years, until January 1984.

Now according to Rodney Jones, general manager at the tunnel which is run jointly by Kent and Essex, traffic has increased 60 per cent in the past 18 months.

Another worry for those who want to ease links between Kent and the rest of Britain is the continuing toll charge at the



tunnel, ranging from 20p for motorcycles, to £1.60 for the heavier goods vehicles. The tunnel authorities claim that it is in a better position financially than any other toll crossings in the country, but the £66m debt is not expected to be cleared until the mid-1990s.

In the shorter term, however, Kent County Council is concentrating on the local road links from its motorways that will make the best use of the M25 connection for its industrial areas. It has asked the Department of Transport for money to help build the Chatham ring road, Strood ring road, Thameside industrial route, stages three, four and five of the Faversham western link and the Sittingbourne industrial link. The county also wants improvements on the A249 road to be included in the Government's trunk road programme, and a feasibility study of the Gilling-

ham northern link, as well as a new Medway crossing.

North Kent is also hoping for future help for roads from the European Transport Infrastructure Fund proposed by the European Commission, but not yet in operation. It would aim to help schemes of significance to the European Communities' network, such as projects to relieve international traffic bottlenecks. Already a regulation of 1982 has led to the funding of three projects, though none is in Britain.

Daily service

Now, in an effort to make sure it is among the first to win whatever Euro-money may be going, Kent has proposed a study of improved links to Chatham dockyard and Chatham ring road stage one as projects suitable for future European funding, and has also

supported the Government's choice of the M25 Swanley-Sevenoaks link.

The importance of the roads spills over to other transport connections. North Kent is in the process of increasing its port facilities, to take advantage of the claims it can now make as continental users, with the M25 only a few miles from its coast. One project, the new commercial port in basin three at the eastern end of the Chatham dockyard, opened in January this year and has been handling roll-on, roll-off cargo at four out of a possible six terminals.

Crescent shipping already runs a daily freight service to and from Zeebrugge. This year the port expects to have handled half a million tonnes of goods, and double it next year. The port is run by the Medway (Chatham) Dock company, a subsidiary of the Medway Ports Authority, which was the first body to decide to use the dockyard after the naval closure was announced.

The other port expected to benefit from the M25 link is the proposed Dartford International Ferry Terminal, due to open in mid-1985, which is being developed by the Blue Circle cement company.

The developers are playing very strongly on the motorway link: the project's symbol is a blue circular sweep of motorway joining on to a stylized ship. They claim that its position minimizes the amount of road transport necessary to get from the continent to destinations in Britain. A trip from Hamburg to Bristol, for example, would be shorter through the Dartford terminal (534 miles), than through the ports of Dover (578) in east Kent or Felixstowe (553) in East Anglia. Dartford, it is also claimed, can offer motorway all the way (130 miles) whereas the distances from the other ports

would be covered on a mix of motorways and other roads. They are given as 187 miles through Dover, and 192 through Felixstowe.

Hopes for the Dartford ferry terminal go as far as the possibility of its taking passengers in the long term, but most of its present great expectations focus on the project with which it goes hand in hand, the Crossways 25 centre also being

developed by Blue Circle. The centre, where junction one of the new M25 will meet the southern entrance to the Dartford Tunnel, is expected to put users within one hour's drive from all the intersections of the M25 with other motorways, as well as Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Developers hope the centre's industrial, warehousing and distribution complexes will cover 150 acres and become a

Construction work on the much-needed M25, which will open up communications with Rochester airport, and bring Gatwick and Heathrow within easier reach by road

fully integrated interchange between road, rail and sea-borne transport.

North Kent's other port is Sheerness, run by the Medway Ports Authority, with five deep-water terminals, and more than 60,000 sq metres of covered warehousing and transit space. The authority says the average turn-round time of an accompanied trailer passing through its terminal is about one hour and the port handles 3,000 cars, 3,000 tonnes of packaged fruit or 4,000 tonnes of forest products a day.

Little is mentioned by developers, about rail links from north Kent, yet Dartford was one of the first places in the country to have a rail service. The trains came in 1849, a century and a half later the only passenger and freight line from Kent directly across the capital is the line from Dartford through Lewisham, Nunhead and Denmark Hill to Clapham.

Users of the North Kent line through Dartford, the Medway Towns, and its branches to the rest of Kent have to cross London from the southern terminus to get to the lines for the north and west. The North Kent line is heavily used by commuters working in London, and Chatham, for example, has two trains each hour. The fast train time to Victoria is 42 minutes. Kent County Council has a policy of encouraging freight movement by rail where possible, and there are lines carrying cement from Northfleet and oil from the Isle of Grain.

Unemployed, but fighting back

Many of the region's unemployed are older people made redundant by the traditional industries, but more than a third are under 25. The Medway Towns Young Unemployed Project appears to be doing an outstanding job, using ideas from a wide range of sources.

The project, a registered charity, was set up two years ago, by a group including local companies and the Manpower Services Commission, for people aged 17 to 25. It began by running two "drop-in" centres for young unemployed people, and is now beginning to help to create jobs. Sam Field, the project coordinator, and David Perry, of GEC Avionics, are advising businesses including a picture-framing company, a potter and a scooter spares maker which have moved into small units.

Its Standby Scheme, allows young entrepreneurs to work for up to 25 hours a week and holds their earnings, apart from one-sixth which goes towards administration costs, giving them non-cash credits, so that they can continue to draw unemployment benefit, and keep the

earnings as capital once their businesses are better established.

The project has also been taking note of the idea by the Industrial Society, the national body which fosters links between education and industry, for giving young entrepreneurs a "Headstart in Business". That scheme, pioneered in London, has already launched a number of young people in business, picking them from entrants in a competition, and offering a training course and workplaces.

Now the Medway project is considering research done for it by the advisory group Job Ownership, which covers the possibilities in particular of cooperatives.

Another area the project has been exploring is horticulture: the aim would be to produce vegetables not offered elsewhere, for example, vegetables used by the Medway Towns' Asian population. For workplaces, the project has been offered a lease on 11,000 sq ft of workshops from Gillingham Borough Council at Lower Twydall Lane, with rent discounts for occupants.

A little more for those in need

One of Orwell's characters holds that "Kent's a tight county", for those in need, but small businesses, and unemployed people, have a wide variety of sources of help, many of which have sprung up in the past year or two.

Indeed the Medway Towns can claim to have persuaded the Government to release extra funds for unemployed people who want to be entrepreneurs, by pioneering, with a handful of other areas across the county, the Enterprise Allowance Scheme. It was largely on the strength of the working of the scheme in Kent that the Government extended the idea nationwide, allowing unemployed people £40 a week for the first year while running a business.

Now a drive is on to provide more small industrial premises across Kent, especially in the north's unemployment black-spots, and to co-ordinate the

of the aims of the Kent Economic Development Board, set up this year, is to help small companies.

Indeed the board may prove to be one of the more far-reaching channels of assistance. Its financial officer is Mr Peter Beckham, a National Westminster Bank manager in Maidstone, and the board is considering starting a business expansion scheme aimed at local investors. A fund of about £250,000 for high-risk venture capital is envisaged, to offer investment in amounts between £20,000 and £30,000 in local companies, although it is thought that smaller amounts would be possible. Investors would get tax relief, under the government's scheme to encourage small businesses. The Kent fund is likely to be for companies which have not been able to find finance elsewhere. It is unlikely to fund high technology ventures.

But that is for the future. For the moment, the Kent County Council Employment Fund has already allocated £330,000 to small companies and to groups which help small firms, and its funds are backing projects in Gillingham, Swale, Gravesham, and Rochester. Some of the money, part of a £30,000 contribution, has gone to three companies which have set up at Chatham dockyard.

Another scheme, for grants and loans to small rural industries, also operates in Kent, and is run jointly by the county council and the Council for small industries in Rural Areas (CoSIRA).

Gillingham offers discounts on rents, including those for units at its small "seed-bed" development in Pier Road. Meanwhile the Medway Towns are pressing on with their own innovations. These include the Medway Enterprise Village, where for the last five months more than 20 companies employing about 30 people have been using some of the 50 units the district council has provided in an old factory. The manager, Mr Arthur Ford, and the local authority advise on such matters as filling in VAT forms, and provide security services, waste disposal, cleaning, and telephones.

Now the county council's own study of small firms, which was published last year, calls for more co-ordination of efforts between the 14 local authorities, the seven enterprise agencies, and other groups, and one



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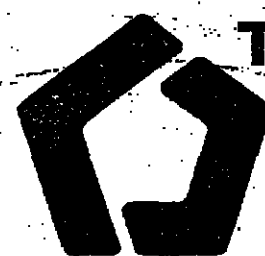
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61	Hudson City	82	0	72	12	25	26.4
62	Indianapolis	100	0	114	14	25	26.4
63	Lawrence	484	0	484	0	25	26.4
64	Lawrenceville	100	0	114	14	25	26.4
65	Lebanon	100	0	114	14	25	26.4
66	Lebanon	100	0	114	14	25	26.4
67	Lebanon	100	0	114	14	25	26.4
68	Lebanon	100	0	114	14	25	26.4
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Barber Books	195	...	11.1	7.1	5.3
Newsday News	195	...	9.2	6.2	4.2
Samuel H. Rabin	195	0	7.1	5.1	3.1
Steady & Fisher	81	...	6.5	4.5	2.5
Stang	81	...	6.5	4.5	2.5
Stang & Fisher	81	...	6.5	4.5	2.5
Style	6.5	4.5	2.5

TELE					
Alfred Tarr	287	...	14.3	2.3	10.1
Adrian Bruz	124	...	7.1	1.1	10.1
Newsday News	195	...	9.2	6.2	4.2
Samuel H. Rabin	195	...	7.1	5.1	3.1
Steady & Fisher	81	...	6.5	4.5	2.5
Stang	81	...	6.5	4.5	2.5
Stang & Fisher	81	...	6.5	4.5	2.5
Style	6.5	4.5	2.5

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Dramatic turn of events in Nicholas Kiwi battle

The transworld takeover battle between Britain's Reckitt & Colman and America's Consolidated Foods for control of Australian company Nicholas Kiwi took a strange and dramatic twist yesterday, which should make it remember with some pride the development of our own takeover code.

Consolidated said it would raise its bid, now A\$4.02 a share to top Reckitt's A\$4.30 cash bid, worth £258m, and said it anticipated making a all week consideration available, but as not definite. It also repeated the formula of the first bid, which won Nicholas Kiwi board approval, to buy 100 per cent of Kiwi's overseas assets and leave the Australian assets as an Australian listed company 85 per cent owned by Australians.

What Consolidated did not say, was what price it would pay. This vital piece of information is being withheld from shareholders until tomorrow's extraordinary meeting, when Nicholas Kiwi shareholders will be asked to vote on a bid they will only have learned of a few minutes before the meeting.

Shareholders who are not at the meeting will have no chance to vote and Reckitt & Colman will have a chance to counterbid.

The board of Nicholas Kiwi should postpone tomorrow meeting. Even Kiwi does not know what Consolidated's revised offer will be but because it agreed to the American company's first bid, it feels it must go along with the second.

Reckitt will go to court for an injunction to stop a meeting, if the Kiwi board does not call it off. The Australian regulatory authorities should also be concerned at the raiding of shareholders, which thankfully could not happen in Britain. But they may not be able to intervene because Consolidated is not making a full-scale bid. It is only bidding for 78 per cent of Nicholas Kiwi.

Shareholders should be given proper time to consider their options and the takeover battle should be allowed to run its course. Reckitt has never said its A\$4.30 offer is final and the bidding could go considerably further. Consolidated is a rich company with far American dollars to spend. There is no reason why it should not win a fair bid.

Reckitt has added to its stake in Kiwi and now holds 20 per cent, making it the single largest shareholder. If it adds to its stake now to 30 per cent, Consolidated's bid, it will be to raise its offer price to that paid in the market. Kiwi shares are now trading at A\$4.60.

The view of the Nicholas Kiwi family interests remain crucial. Three families control more than 40 per cent of the shares and in the first round of bidding they supported Consolidated. Reckitt will have to persuade them to win the day. At the moment Reckitt is cast in the guise of champion of the Kiwi shareholders. In trying to win itself time, it is trying to win them time to consider their alternatives.

Lesson for Britain in US productivity

Productivity failed to rise at all in the United States in the third quarter of this year - or at least in what is termed the non-arm business sector. Although that is the first quarter in which productivity has failed to rise for more than two years - and comes after a good three months in the spring - it is only a more dramatic instance of the failure of productivity to play a really significant part in the US recovery. Over the 12 months to June, US productivity had risen by only 2.9 per cent, which now sinks to 2.3 per cent for the year to September.

From this side of the Atlantic, it sounds like just another feature of the current looking-glass world of international economics, where higher inflation or budget deficits send the dollar up instead of down. The Government has consistently told Britons that employment can rise only if productivity improves sharply.

Yet as the London Business School reminded us over the weekend, the boom

in British productivity compared to output, though now slowing, threatens to keep unemployment edging upwards. In the United States, by contrast, the failure of productivity to rise has helped employment respond much more directly to output growth.

It may not seem fair, but that is history's fault rather than the Chancellor of the Exchequer's. The United States can manage with lower productivity growth, simply because its exposure to foreign trade is proportionately so much smaller than our own. The lesson here for Britain is that policy should encourage the development of largely non-traded sectors such as construction.

In this topsy-turvy world, it is hard to say whether the descent to static productivity in the United States carries the seeds of its own destruction. It appears to be a reflection of slower output growth rather than diminishing returns. But in a boom past its peak, it is hard to separate these elements. Unit labour costs are estimated to have risen at a 3.7 per cent rate in the third quarter, in line with hourly wages, which is disappointing rather than any sign of impending rampant inflation.

It remains to be seen whether the recent spate of relatively higher wage settlements will stimulate demand and output or simply run up against stagnant productivity. The latter, at least, would support Dr Henry Kaufman's view that higher demand for money will push interest rates up by 2 per cent next year.

Saving the Loan Guarantee Scheme

Extension of the Loan Guarantee Scheme for helping finance small businesses, which is due to run out in its current form at the end of the year, is now the subject of stiff argument in Whitehall. Its sharpest critics have inevitably been at the Treasury as losses have mounted in what was supposed to be a self-financing scheme.

The Department of Trade and Industry, where small businesses minister Mr David Trippier, is the key man involved, is suggesting two important changes for a new scheme. Both represent a tightening up. But an attempt is also apparently being made to bring down the premium charged to borrowers. This went up from 3 per cent to 5 per cent this year. Mr Trippier is known to be unhappy about that.

Currently, borrowers can opt out of putting in their own money if they are unable or unwilling to do so. That "unwilling" would be struck out, to counter any allegations of the taxpayer being ripped off. Closer monitoring of loans could also be made mandatory. This would mean compulsory monitoring by an accountant for the bank.

An additional idea is that consellers of the department's small firms service could also in a less formal way be drawn into the monitoring process. Where they have been involved in the Enterprise Allowance Scheme, failure rates have been around one in five, compared with one in three at best under the loan guarantee scheme.

Both tightening up moves sound sensible. That is happening in the Netherlands where a similar scheme has been running far longer; there a reduction in the 100 per cent Government guarantee is very much on the cards as losses have mounted with failure rates running at the British level.

But with applications for loans in Britain down by as much as a half, according to some anecdotal reports from banks, action to reduce the premium looks desirable if the scheme is to make a real contribution to floating small businesses with their job-making potential. Maybe a *quid pro quo* on that would be further to increase the exposure of the banks which has already risen from 20 to 30 per cent. It looks due for an eventual Cabinet decision, and that means the Prime Minister's support for small business initiatives could again be the crucial factor.

Opec to cut oil production by 1.5m barrels a day

From David Young, Geneva

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries last night reached agreement that will cut its oil output by 1.5 million barrels a day in a move designed to keep prices at their present levels. Opec ministers hope their decision will result in Britain and Norway returning their North Sea oil prices to above the Opec level of \$29 per barrel.

Opec's president, Dr Subroto of Indonesia, said last night that agreement had been reached on the size of the output cut, but ministers of the 13 member nations will now remain in closed session until it is decided how the cuts should be spread.

Saudi Arabia had made it plain that it can no longer take full responsibility for regulating

Opec output by cutting its own production.

Opec is also to attempt to persuade the non-Opec producers that they should limit output until demand forces spot market prices up to and beyond the present Opec market price of \$29 a barrel.

In Geneva yesterday the organization for the first time allowed delegates from two non-member producers, Egypt and Mexico, to attend its ministerial meeting. Both are already understood to have agreed to make output cuts if Opec takes such a decision, although the Egyptian representatives have said that their cut will be "symbolic" because of continuing high demand from its domestic market.

Saudi Arabia had been expected to bear the brunt of any output cut, which is expected to be about 2 million barrels a day from the present Opec ceiling of 17.5 million.

However, Sheikh Yamani yesterday reported that Saudi Arabia's output was running at 3.5 million barrels a day, compared with its allowed

ceiling of 5 million barrels, leaving little scope for a massive cut.

Opec members are discussing how the cuts should be spread, but Iran has also given a clear indication that it has little to offer in the way of cuts as it is producing about half its Opec quota of 2.5 million barrels a day.

There is also growing pressure from some member states for the introduction of a differential price structure to bring the price of heavy crudes nearer the level of the lighter crudes.

Nigeria, which broke Opec ranks and cut prices in the wake of Norway and Britain's cut in North Sea prices, has said that its action has already created a differential price structure.

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Treasury to settle spending rift

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The "Star Chamber" of ministers attempting to rein back public spending for next year is to look to the Treasury to agree a compromise.

The Star Chamber, headed by Lord Whitelaw, the deputy prime minister, has been given another week to come up with a solution to the problem of £1.5 billion to £2 billion of excess bids by spending departments.

The matter is due to go before the full Cabinet early next week, with the Treasury's autumn economic statement expected around November 13. The aim will be to retain the planned total of £131.6 billion of public expenditure for 1985-86, published last March.

Lord Whitelaw's Star Chamber has been active for the past two weeks, interviewing ministers from most of the spending departments. Social security, defence, and local government spending have posed the main



Lord Whitelaw: grappling with the big spenders

problems, together with nationalized industry finances.

Excess bids have been whittled down from an initial £2.5 billion to £3 billion, but progress has been slow.

Barring an unexpected breakthrough in the remaining Star Chamber sessions this week, the

Treasury will be put under pressure to agree to a compromise. The planning total of £131.6 billion includes a £3.75 billion reserve and a deduction of £2 billion for sales of assets.

Ministers from some of the spending departments argue that the £3.75 billion reserve is too generous and could be reduced without difficulty.

The Treasury, while pointing to the fact that this year's reserve, of £2.75 billion, has been under pressure, is ready to accept a reduction of around £1 billion in the reserve for 1985-86.

The other area in which the Treasury will be pressed to use its room for manoeuvre is in the amount expected for asset sales in 1985-86. The second and third payments on British Telecom shares, raising 60 per cent of the total of the sale, will be in 1985-86, suggesting asset sales from this source alone of £2.2 billion.

Sipra firms face wind-up petitions

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Johnson Matthey Bankers is seeking to wind up two more companies associated with Mr Mahmoud Sipra, the businessman whose El Saeed Group is an important customer of JMB.

JMB's solicitors, Norton Rose Botterell & Roche, yesterday presented petitions to the High Court for the winding-up of Bulk Fertilisers Inc and Gulf Fertile. Both companies are Liberator-registered and leave was yesterday given to advertise the petitions.

Last week, JMB issued a winding-up petition against Eurochem Maritime. There are now believed to be five petitions out against companies connected with Mr Sipra. Receivers were also appointed last week to two film companies, Nemetex and Monostock, associated with the El Saeed Group.

Mr Sipra has indicated he may resist the attempts to wind up his shipping interests.

The near-collapse of JMB and subsequent rescue by the Bank of England because of large problem loans cost its former partner, Johnson Matthey plc, £150m. The board of Johnson Matthey plc yesterday revealed in a letter to shareholders that Thomson McIntock, the firm of chartered accountants, is carrying out a full inquiry.

Thomson McIntock has been given a wide brief which could include management's responsibilities and possibly the role of the group's auditors. The accountants are expected to report back within weeks and shareholders are expected to be given the main conclusions.

Shares in Johnson Matthey plc rose 12p to 158p yesterday on speculation that BP, which has been given information about the company, would launch a bid.

Acrow deal defended by receiver

By Jeremy Warner

The surge in the dollar against the pound may have played an important part in the sale of Britain's largest crane company to an American group.

The receivers at Cole Cranes, the biggest part of the failed Acrow engineering group, yesterday defended their decision to sell the Sunderland-based company, which employs about 1,000 people, to the American-owned Grove crane manufacturing group.

The receivers had been accused of reneging on an agreement to sell the company to a local management consortium led by the company's previous managing director, Mr David Steel.

But Mr Michael Jordan, of Cork Gully, the accountancy firm specializing in insolvency, said that the American bid had been raised to "significantly higher" level than the management offer and that there had been no unconditional agreement to accept the management bid.

Mr Jordan came under further attack yesterday from local Labour MPs. Mr Gordon Baggie (Sunderland South) accused the receivers of "unethical behaviour". Mr Bob Clay (Sunderland North) said the management consortium had been treated in a shameful manner.

Mr Jordan said: "We seem to have walked into a political minefield here, but there was nothing unethical about the way we handled this sale. My obligation as a receiver was to sell to the highest bidder. Grove has given assurances about continuing crane production in Sunderland so I believe I have also discharged my social obligations."

According to Mr Jordan, Grove, which is part of the Kiddie group of New Jersey and already has a manufacturing base in Oxfordshire, said it was dropping out of the bidding for Coles the Saturday before last.

However, on Thursday night it came back with an offer "significantly higher" than the management bid which, according to Mr Jordan, had still not been agreed unconditionally at that stage.

Plantation & General in £2.9m cash call

By Philip Robinson

Mr Konrad Legg's Plantation & General Investment group plans to raise £2.9m from shareholders in the wake of trebled pretax profits, boosted by buoyant tea prices.

The group is issuing more than £2m worth of 9 per cent convertible loan stock convertible into ordinary shares of the company during the years 1988 to 1999. Taking the loan stock at par conversion would value the ordinary shares at 307.7p. The shares jumped 12p before settling to a 7p rise on the day at 293p.

Until last spring, Plantation was an investment company whose shares were traded by special permission under the 163 (2) rule of the Stock Exchange. But the acquisition of

a majority stake in the British engineering company of Telfos gave it sufficient profits to be eligible for a full Stock Exchange quotation.

For the six months to the end of last June, Plantation reported pretax profits up from £338,000 to £1.13m on a turnover which rose from £1,024m to £4,88m. After deducting the £88,000 cost of gaining a full listing, shareholders' profits increased from £232,000 to £606,000.

The interim dividend went up from 1.5p to 2p.

Terms of the loan issue are £7 worth for every 10 ordinary shares held, £723 for every £500 of the 12 per cent loan stock held, and £175 for every £200 of the convertible loan notes.

Institute of Directors hits EEC

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Institute of Directors today joins the growing argument about the future of the European Economic Community with a strongly worded attack on what it calls the EEC's indecisiveness.

In a submission to the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee, which is investigating the financial and economic consequences of British membership, the institute expresses concern about "the continuing failure of the EEC to fully implement important parts of the Treaty of Rome."

It adds: "We regret the lack of serious political commitment to the revitalization of the European economy, not by extravagant schemes of inflationary or redistributive public expenditure, but by the simpler and sounder establishment of a competitive European enterprise economy without internal barriers to trade in goods and services."

A new survey of members, says the IoD, reveals that 24 per cent believed British membership resulted in tangible benefits for their company.

Asda attacks superstore restrictions

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Asda, the superstores division of Associated Dairies, yesterday accused local authorities in the London area of taking restrictive attitudes to new superstores.

The authorities' reluctance to grant planning permission for large superstores was reducing competition and threatening to create an "unhealthy duopoly" by J. Sainsbury and Tesco Stores, Asda said.

Sainsbury and Tesco together have 54 per cent of the total square footage in food stores of

more than 10,000 square feet selling space in the London area according to Mr John Harman, managing director of Asda Stores. They are set to increase this to 66 per cent by 1989, he said. That estimate does not include 24 schemes for which no retail operator has yet been decided, so the degree of dominance could increase, he added.

Asda says that Sainsbury and Tesco have a combined share of well over half the packaged grocery market in the London television region.

It argues that although more superstores are now being given planning permission in London they tend to be smaller rather than large superstores.

Because Asda looks to the larger stores it can be at a disadvantage, it says. It also argues that the London area has comparatively fewer superstores than the rest of the country.

It has four in London, with its largest at Charlton opening this week.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

HILL SAMUEL GROUP PLC

(formerly Hill Samuel Group Limited)

8 1/2% Bonds due 1986, Due November 15, 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of November 15, 1971 providing for the above Bonds, \$640,000 principal amount of said Bonds have been selected for redemption on November 15, 1984, through operation of the mandatory Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest thereon to said date, as follows:

OUTSTANDING BONDS OF \$1,000 EACH BEARING THE DISTINCTIVE NUMBERS ENDING IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TWO DIGITS:

20 25 27 29 37 41 46 50 54 57 60

ALSO OUTSTANDING BONDS BEARING THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

357 1087 1507 4667 8457 13057 13057 13157 18757

On November 15, 1984, the Bonds designated above will become due and payable in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts. Said Bonds will be paid, upon presentation and surrender thereof with all coupons appertaining thereto maturing after the redemption date, at the option of the holder either (a) at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 134th Floor, 30 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013, or (b) at the main office of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, Paris and Zurich; Hill Samuel & Co. Limited in London; Credito Romagnolo S.p.A. in Milan and Rome; Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam; and Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg in Luxembourg. Payments at the offices referred to in (b) above will be made by check drawn on a bank in New York City or by transfer to a dollar account maintained by the payee with a bank in New York City. Such payment made by transfer to an account maintained with a bank in the United States by the payee may be subject to reporting to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to backup withholding of 20% of the gross proceeds if payee not recognized as exempt recipient fail to provide the paying agent with an executed IRS Form W-9 in the case of non-U.S. persons or an executed IRS Form W-9 in the case of U.S. persons.

Coupons due November 15, 1984 should be detached and collected in the usual manner. On and after November 15, 1984 interest shall cease to accrue on the Bonds herein designated for redemption.

HILL SAMUEL GROUP PLC
By: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Trustee

Dated: October 11, 1984

NOTICE

The following Bonds previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment:

743 1514 2810 7181 7191 7210 8735 18263 18263 18014
1981 3025 7175 7183 7196 7214 18225 18275

Deadline set for Esal rescue plan

The controversial scheme by which a consortium of banks hopes to rescue Esal (Commodities) from compulsory liquidation will be rejected unless it is formally put before the High Court on November 7, a judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Harman adjourned consideration of the scheme to come on at the same time as a petition by London & Overseas Sugar to wind up the company.

London & Overseas was substituted as petitioner on October 16 after the judge said that factors against the scheme were heavily in favour of its exercising his discretion.

AVANA GROUP, the foods manufacturer, has increased pretax profits for the 26 weeks to September 29 to £7.7m, up from £6.7m. Sales rose from £55.4m to £98.6m.

Tempus, page 24

TKM shareholding sold

Mr Ken Thorogood, who retired as chairman of troubled Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn almost two years ago, has sold all but 200,000 of his shares for about £1.2m.

TKM announced the sale of his 8.1 per cent stake yesterday. It went to New Zealand entrepreneur, Mr Ron Brierley, who runs the Australian-based investment group IEP and his

stake in TKM to 24.79 per cent. It means that 40 per cent of the company is now in the hands of three shareholders.

The Arab Investments group Mass Development owns 5.4 million shares and Coast Investments has 2.7 million. Earlier this month the group reported a £1m fall to £2.37m in half time profits for the six months to the end of June.

In an interview with the trade newspaper Home Computer Trade Weekly, Sir Clive predicted: "We are hoping to make it March. Obviously it depends on market conditions, but we've pencilled in March."

The company has been expanding rapidly in the export market since Sir Clive sold 10 per cent of his company last summer for £12.9m. That put a valuation on the company of about £130m.

Sir Clive said: "We're selling



Sir Clive: "No intention of ceasing to innovate"

an electric car. His flat screen television was launched last September and last summer he established a £2m advanced

research laboratory, called Metab, on an idyllic site at Milton Hall, outside Cambridge.

Sir Clive has also confirmed that the United States will be an export market which he intends to exploit. The QL and the Spectrum Plus are to be sold extensively there.

Sir Clive considered taking space at the now defunct De Lorean factory in Belfast, Northern Ireland, but has opted for two sites on which to develop and produce his electric car. Metab, Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, looks a likely bet for the production of the car and the Warwick Science Park, now being planned at the University of Warwick, could be the centre for research and development.

A carat or more.
A little extra weight she won't mind putting on.



This necklace features a 1.25 carat diamond.

A quality diamond of a carat or more.

Quality. It's as important in diamonds as in anything else you own. And it's especially important in a diamond of a carat or more.

It's one of nature's most perfect gifts. Spectacular. Impressive. Crafted by a master cutter, it has exceptional clarity and colour.

Your jeweller is the expert where diamonds are concerned. He'll be happy to discuss the 4Cs: the four criteria (Cut, Colour, Clarity and Carat-weight) that determine the quality and value of a diamond.

He can show you outstanding diamonds of a carat or more that will please the most discriminating taste.

And since this isn't the type of purchase you make every day, we have prepared a booklet to further help you understand the 4Cs and to make the right decision.

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Dept. L.H. The Diamond Information Centre,
Saffron House, 11 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RN.

4C

A diamond is forever.

De Beers

● Support for
Sinclair QL: Page 27

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Edited by MATTHEW MAY

● Software: missing
money: Page 28

Some of Britain's leading information technology industrialists are putting the final touches to plans to launch a revolutionary technological institute funded by private finance. An announcement is expected this week.

The idea emerged from preliminary talks at the Department of Trade and Industry. Industrialists agreed to the idea, but the academic establishment rebelled saying that existing resources were under-utilised. The formula to be unveiled is a compromise.

Companies like STC, Racal, BICC, Thorn-EMI, Plessey and Cable & Wireless are expected to play a significant role in providing most of the funding to set up the new technology institute which will be based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. More than £10m will be required at first but thereafter the institute is expected to be self-financing, producing an income from its courses to industry of about £25m a year.

For Britain it is a first and leaves the Germans, who have long nurtured the idea, far behind. It is however a dramatic change in attitude by British industry and will require an equally imaginative approach for the establishment in education.

The new institute will be attached to Cranfield Institute of Technology and it is no coincidence that Sir Henry Chilver, the vice-chancellor of Cranfield, is one of the principal proponents of the new college/university, and is an advocate of fresh

£10m needed to set up revolutionary institute

thinking to help Britain solve its skills shortage in IT.

It is the skills shortage which has precipitated the novel institute. More than 5,000 students a year will be given special conversion courses at the college. In addition more than 1,000 graduates and post-graduate places will be created to cater to the IT industry's needs.

The idea will require a long term commitment on the institute's funding and support. The industry has for years been whining about the poor quality of engineers. It was those complaints which resulted in the creation of the Engineering Council and the pressure which it has been attempting to exert on academia on the training/education of engineers and technologists.

The Government addressed the skills shortage in a study published in July. The report - one of two to come from the 16 man committee led by John Butcher, parliamentary under secretary of state for industry - called for joint ventures between industry and academia to solve the critical shortage of manpower. He was walking a political tightrope and was

fearful that any positive recommendation might be seen by the Department of Education and Science (DES) and the Treasury as a declaration of government policy.

The message was clear. Partnerships between industry and academia would mean that the product would be to the liking of industry, but there were many opposed to tinkering with the balance which already exists between science and the arts.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

Whether it has been Butcher who has spurred the IT sector into action or whether the industry has realized that in the short term the academic establishment will not be responsive, is debatable. What is clear is that part of the establishment has responded.

The creation of the technological institute in Milton Keynes is expected to take place in parallel with the creation of more than 1,000 new IT

undergraduate places in Manchester. The imaginative Professor John Ashworth, the vice chancellor of Salford University, has been as active as Sir Henry Chilver in warning the Government about the critical shortage of IT skilled personnel.

In partnership with the National Computing Centre, the new undergraduate places are expected to be created at an Information Technology Institute based in Manchester. No decision has been taken but talks are scheduled between Government and Ashworth for December.

The education establishment is, however, taking stock of itself. The University Grants Committee has asked the universities to report on the courses they are running in the IT sector and how those facilities - equipment and teachers - can be improved so that they can accommodate more students.

About a dozen of Britain's 55 universities have already replied. The others are expected to respond before the deadline expires tomorrow.

The UGC has conceded that one of the critical problems is trying to compete with industry for highly

qualified personnel. Lectureships offered to working engineers/executives is a favoured solution.

Salford has been creating these visiting professorships in the last few years and have now more than six. The new partnership of Salford/NCC would be expected to use this model.

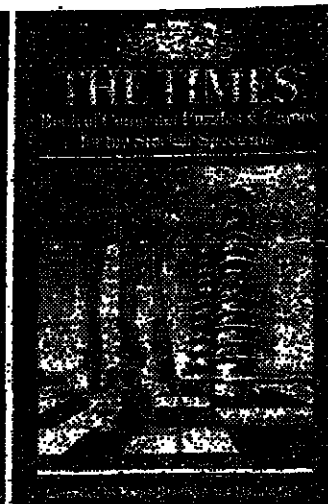
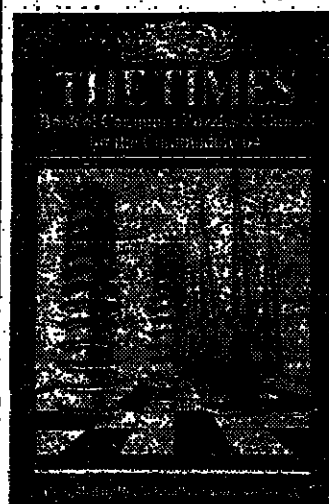
The very existence of such institutes is a breath of fresh air. Many institutions of higher education in the UK have been hampered in their progress and expansion by the lack of imagination. The musty smells of the academic cloisters have been matched with the fusty thinking of those who run many of our universities.

More allocation from the public sector will be required. An industrial university funded from the private sector is not sufficient. More monies will need to be channelled by the Government into education. It cannot rely on industry financing the expansion.

That is not an open cheque for the education establishment either. Academics have for too long been unaware of costs and only since the education cutbacks of recent years took effect have they properly addressed themselves to finance and alternative methods of funding.

The institutes at Milton Keynes and Manchester will not only assist in providing the education surplus in the short term but might be the catalyst to encourage the establishment to rethink its policy for the long term so that there is no repeat of the current IT skills crisis.

Puzzles galore on the way



The Times Book of Computer Puzzles and Games is published today in two volumes - one for the Sinclair Spectrum and the other for the Commodore 64. Each book contains more than 150 pages of computer listings with many of the puzzles and games having been sent in by Times readers.

Both books have been selected by Book Club Associates for inclusion in their Computer Book Club. The Times books are edited and compiled by Robin Bradbeer and Harold Gale. Published jointly by Times Books and Sidgwick & Jackson, each book will cost £6.95.

Why IBM will soon be in the vans

By Kevan Pearson

It now seems, after the Government's rejection of IBM's proposed joint networking venture with British Telecom, that IBM will soon enter the ranks of value added network suppliers.

The company is believed to have all the equipment, including communications processes and mainframe computers, already installed in order to launch a separate value added network service (vans) possibly early next year. Sperry, the US mainframe manufacturer, is the latest company to launch a van in the UK, joining ICL and the computer services company Istel, both vociferous critics of the now abandoned IBM/BT deal.

Istel was particularly jubilant about the Government's rejection of Jove, as the IBM/BT project had been codenamed. An official said: "Either one of them (IBM and BT) could swamp the vans market on their own; together no one would stand a chance against them." The debate now is whether anyone will stand a chance against IBM operating a value added service of its own based on SNA, IBM's computer networking system. The company has been operating such a service in the US for several years. Its principal competitor there is American Telephone & Telegraph with its Net 1000 system. ICL's vans division has a link to Net 1000. But neither of the two services has made any money for its providers. IBM's Information Network has been by far the most successful, offering more services and attracting more customers. Net 1000, on the other hand, has been a major embarrassment to AT & T.

Aggressive

The US trade magazine, *Datamation*, recently reported that the Information Network is in the red and likely to remain so for the near future.

That could be indicative that IBM, like AT&T, has its share of troubles in this new, developing market. It would also mean that IBM is not afraid of making losses in new business areas in order to establish itself, especially where its major competition is a significant

The US case has close parallels with the situation in Britain since the rejections of Jove. The Government said it was for IBM and BT to develop separate services along the lines of the proposed joint service. But in a head-to-head clash IBM is holding all the aces.



Ron Back, director of BT's National networks

It is BT and the independent competition which can be counted among the losers if a rerun of the vans market in the US occurs in the UK. On the one hand IBM will be a fiercely aggressive competitor in the vans market as it quite rightly sees this as a major market area for the future. And IBM, like many other established computer companies, is having to look to new markets to maintain its planned growth rate.

As for OSI, that too could be a loser, at least in the short term.

The Jove plans called for a bridge between Jove and PSS. But many of the project's critics thought that was just to appease the government. Without Jove, however, OSI for IBM and BT could be well and truly relegated to second place.

Effective

The problem for OSI is, as Mr Ron Back, director of BT's national networks, said, at least two years away from the final definition and even further away from implementation.

OSI proponents, such as ICL, deny this and add that several vans service based on OSI already exist. The debate continues. OSI recently received two boosts from the Government. Both the Treasury and Government's own computer consultancy, the CCTA, backed OSI for government procurement. The problem with that is that many more companies and products support SNA than do OSI at the moment.

It seems it was Ofel's opposition to Jove which caused the rejection. The Government was, according to sources in the Department of Trade and Industry, ready to give the go-ahead, but could not ignore Ofel. Critics of Ofel have repeatedly pointed out that it will be over-stretched to look after BT, let alone Mercury and possibly IBM.

The 'most powerful' desktop machine arrives in US

IBM has announced several major offerings in hardware and software, ranging from a new revision of the PC/AT up to medium range mainframes, and software to link them together.

But while the US felt the fall force of the IBM announcement, British customers will have to wait for the most exciting parts, namely a version of the PC/AT which can run mainframe

software, and software for IBM's small systems aimed at office automation and networking.

The new PC is called the AT/370 and effectively replaces the XT/370 which was dubbed by early users as a "test machine" for IBM fitting to see if there is a market for a really powerful desktop system running scaled down versions of

IBM mainframe software. The company obviously thinks there is a market for such a machine.

The AT/370 is probably the most powerful desktop machine so far. It uses three very powerful microprocessor chips for its PC-DOS and VM (IBM mainframe) operating systems.

The new software offerings mainly concern IBM's Dis-

playwrite word processor package for the PC. Now it will run on IBM's System/36 small office computer and the company has said it will run on its mainframes, too, but not just yet.

That means PCs will be able to swap documents with larger systems provided both run Displaywrite software - important in terms of IBM's emerging

office automation strategy. It is expected that System/36 will be added to the recently announced PC Network, to increase the range of functions users of the network can use.

Compared with these announcements the new middle order mainframes bleach into relative insignificance, they merely extend the low range upwards and the top range

downwards so that they overlap. The new top-end 4381-3 will come in four versions ranging from 8 megabytes to 32 with prices starting at around £500,000. The 3083 Model CX is a new low end 3083 mainframe at a similar price. But much more important is when the new AT/370 and the software products will be announced in the UK.

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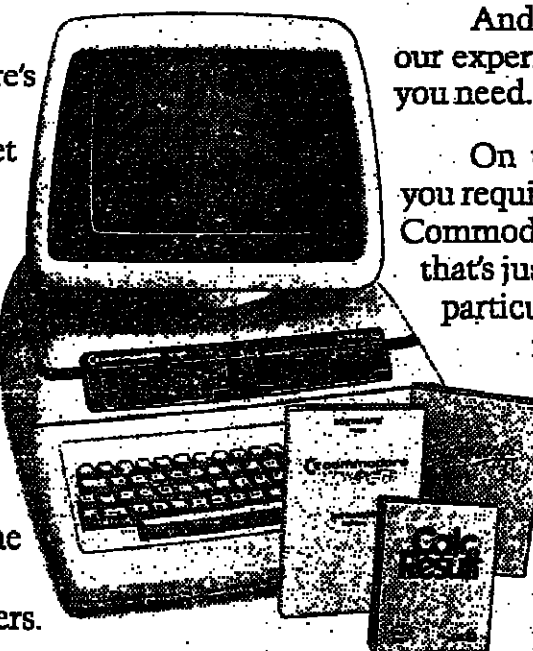
This simply means there's enough storage capacity to cope with every filing cabinet you can throw at it.

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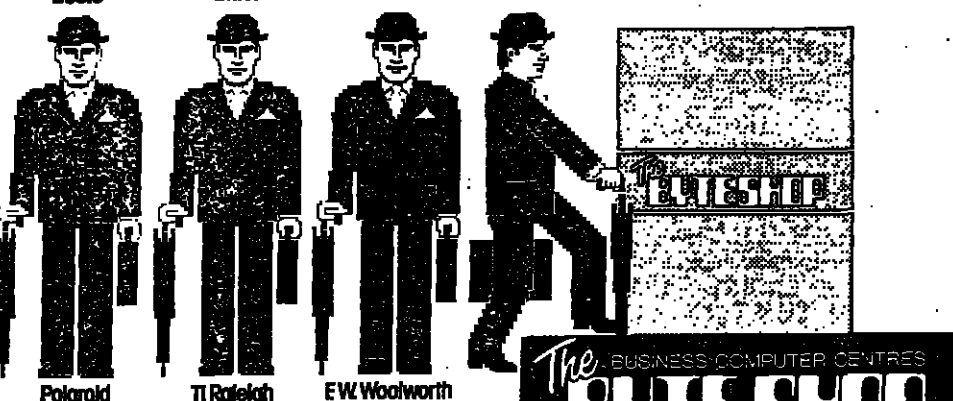
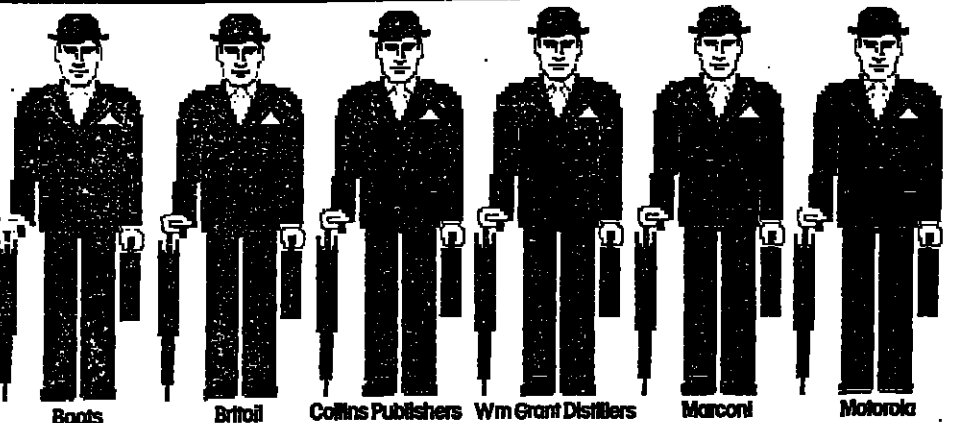
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The children roll up for the IT road show

A travelling exhibition of information technology, presented by IBM, has come to rest in the grounds of the Natural History Museum in London.

Pictured on the right are a group of children examining the electro-erosion process on a printer where type-set or graphic material is reproduced on paper coated with a thin film of aluminium providing high quality reproduction.

Other exhibits include voice recognition, a teaching aid for deaf children and a robotics display.

Admission to the show is free and it will be at the Natural History Museum until December 2. It is expected to be on the road for three years visiting 20 cities in 14 European countries. Its next British stop will be in Manchester in July 1985.



Quest steps in to support Sinclair's troubled QL

By Frank Brown

Sir Clive Sinclair's revolutionary £400 32-bit personal computer, the QL, which has to attract criticism for its lack of adequately-powered peripherals and dearth of applications software, has found a supporter in the Hampshire computer firm Quest Automation.

It has announced floppy disks, Winchester disks, memory-expansion boards and business applications

software packages. Known as the Quest QL Executive series, they complement a new operating system the company announced for the QL in June.

Quest has also announced its intention of introducing other peripherals for the Sinclair machine, including a gigabyte optical disk drive.

Commenting on the move, Quest managing director Peter Ebel said the new products were designed to

overcome the shortcomings for which the QL had been criticised. Prices range from £249 for the lowest capacity floppy disk drive to £995 for a 7.3 megabyte Winchester drive.

The memory expansion boards capacities range from 64K at £99 to 512K at £499. The fit in an expansion module which accommodates the QL on top, giving it the appearance of a neatly styled larger machine.

The application software comprises five integrated business accounting programs which in turn integrate with the four Psion programs Sinclair supplies with the machine, so that data can be passed from one program to another. Sales ledger, sales invoicing and stock control are in one package at £99, and purchase and nominal ledger in another for £50.

Micros: Habitat hedge, Harrods go all-out

By Paul Walton

Harrods of Knightsbridge is spending several thousand pounds revamping its electrical department in the hope of selling more home computers. Sir Terence Conran will not have them in his Habitat. So why should the store for the upper echelon say yes when the store for the middle orders declines?

It is not that Sir Terence is shy of home computers: quite the reverse — he just cannot afford to stock low mark-up computers when pottery and rugs make more money. But after a couple of years of selling computers and software, Harrods electrical buyer Al Brown says that it now has enough confidence to "splash out with a re-designed blue, grey and white floor full of technology."

The design of most computers, and the layout of most of the stores which sell them, is unlikely to change much in time for this or any other Christmas shopping season; the incentive has gone. Home computers (under £500) can be risky and unprofitable items, the expensive stock can rapidly lose its value and retailers make very little margin and must sell in volume to profit.

Habitat was interested in introducing computers, among other electronic consumer goods. In order to apply its own brand of harmonious domestic design and, perhaps eventually, re-design, Sir Terence well appreciates that the home computer is now essentially a plastic box waiting to be

tastefully moulded for domestic consumption.

"It doesn't seem as if the project is viable at the moment", was how Sir Terence dismissed one report proposing that Habitat should introduce a dash of design into the rather staid appearance of computers and the stores where they are sold. But he is still interested: "if there is a way we can do it better than anyone else."

Alison Richards, in charge of buying at Habitat, summed up the financial argument against stocking home computers — one which dictates that Habitat requires 35 per cent of the selling price to run and expects an extra 11 per cent for profit. "We would have to enjoy phenomenal volume gains — investments would have to be made in advertising, promotions and stock so it means an enormous change in our retailing strategy," she says.

Stephen Bayley, director of the Conran Foundation-backed

Boilerhouse design studio in the vaults of the V&A, is a firm believer that "better design is about to happen to new technology; since the external appearance of a computer no longer depends on its function, or even what it is supposed to do."

Harrods however, intends to steal a march on its down-market competitors. "What happens at Harrods is unique", said

Al Brown — but undoubtedly its proprietors. The House of Fraser are watching to see if this new technology department will be a success that might be repeated in stores up and down the country.

The department was dreamed up by Mr Brown, impressed by the plush interiors of the business-orientated First Computer and Interface chairs, said with money to spend on

improvements. He is not worried by present returns on the sale of home computers, but said that Harrods would have to think again if prices and margins continue to fall next year.

Brown employed the Bang & Olufsen design subsidiary Exco Competence to design the store interior. "For the first time we've got four of five areas where people can go along and try out products — TVs, video, home computers — in comfort. Essentially we are aiming for the same market as W H Smiths, but our customers expect a little more."

Harrods stocks much the same hardware and peripherals — with the Sinclair Spectrum and QL, the Commodore range and the BBC — but is adding the Tatum Einstein and the ACT Apricot F1 business machine. The computer portion of the technology department is staffed by four people from Harrods and four provided by the suppliers.

Idea processing has arrived

By Geoff Wheelwright

Software companies could be running out of ideas. General purpose software programs seemed to have settled down to "The Big Five": word-processing, spreadsheet analysis, database management, business graphics systems and computer communications.

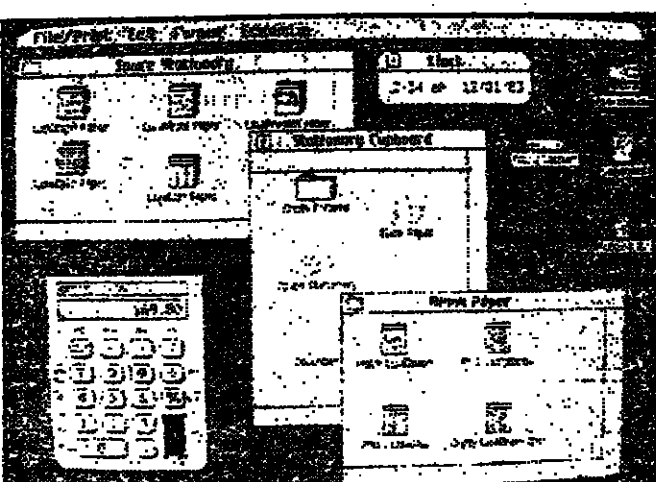
The only really new general purpose personal computer application to emerge in the past year is the "idea-processor" (also known as a thought-processor), a rather lofty name for programs which order information and plans in terms of their priorities. First among these was Caxton Software's Brainstorm in the UK and Living Text's Think Tank in the US.

Both programs let you plan a report, essay or book by ordering your notes in terms of their connections and priorities. If you were planning a book, for example, and wanted to quickly list all the possible chapters and what would occur in each, the idea-processor would give you a form on which you might write the title of the book, and then all the chapter headings under that title.

On a second level you might put the detailed points you wanted to cover within a given chapter — and then any further ideas for what you would say on that particular point. The resultant processed-idea might look something like this:

- 1.0 - Chapter one
- 1.1 - Introduce the main character
- 1.2 - Introduce the mystery person
- 1.3 - Introduction of the antagonist
- 1.3.1 - Had a tough childhood
- 1.3 - Went to jail at an early age
- 1.3.3 - On probation for five years
- 1.4 - Introduce the antagonist

Even integrated software packages in collection of programs which can exchange information: usually including "the big five", which have been touted by the software industry as the greatest thing since the invention of the floppy disk, are not really new. The Lotus Development Corporation and Apple computer pioneered it with Lotus 1-2-3 software and the Lisa computer.



Apple's Lisa computer was one of the first to come with integrated software to represent commonly used office products



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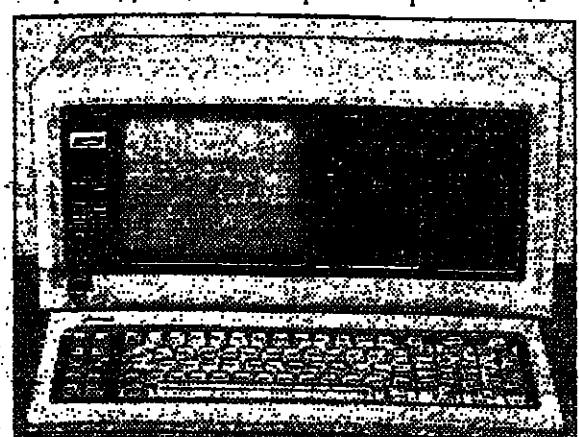
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Computer Appointments

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FINANCIAL SYSTEMS LTD.,
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St Peter Port,
Guernsey

In search of the IPSE

The UK software house, Software Sciences, is to lead an Alvey-funded consortium in a £6.2m project to develop an integrated project support environment (IPSE). Called Edipse, the project is the largest of its kind, and will involve 150 man-years of development effort over the next three years. Other partners in the consortium are CAP, Learmonth, Burchett Management Systems, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and the universities of Lancaster and Strathclyde. The technology director of Software Sciences, David Rodway, explained that an integrated project support environment is a set of "tools" which provides support for all the activities in the total life cycle of a computer system. It can be used to manage all stages of a computer project, and automate or give powerful assistance to, all the project's constituent activities from initial planning, through design, implementation and testing, to post-installation technical support and maintenance. The computer industry desperately needed such tools, he said, if it were to have any chance of keeping up to the computer users' demands, Mr Rodway said.

Closing time

Any final entries for the UK Computer Award, sponsored by The Times and Hewlett-Packard, must be received by the closing date of tomorrow. The awards, which include prizes worth more than £7,000, are to be made in recognition of the growing importance of computer journalism. They will be made at dinner at Claridges. The address for entries is UK Computer Press Awards, Horsley Associates, 20/22 Craven Road, London W2 3PX.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

ITT's new stake

Communications giant ITT has bought a stake in the software and computer systems parts of Christiani Røvsing, a fellow communications company in Denmark which went into liquidation at the end of September. ITT has paid \$3.5m for the 44 per cent of Christiani Røvsing which it now holds; the rest of the company has been bought by a consortium of Danish banks and pension funds. The acquisition is part of ITT's strategy to improve its software products. The move follows a similar purchase in August when the company bought over a third of Holland Automation BV.



"User friendliness is one thing - friendly users is another."

Robot harvest

Israeli scientists at the Robotics Laboratory at the Technion Institute of Technology have produced a super-sensitive robotic manufacturing arm that can pick up material half the diameter of a human hair. Professor Yoram Koren, the head of the laboratory, expects eventually to design robots to take over virtually all of the harvesting in Israel's extensive orchards as well as a robot which can diagnose problems in other robots and then instruct a technician on how to fix them.

Laser power

A new high-power laser, which emits radiation of more than 1,000 watts, has been developed by scientists at the Institute of Communications Science at the Technical University in Vienna. It uses a mixture of carbon dioxide, nitrogen and helium which, when an electric current is passed through it, is transformed into a highly conductive plasma, which in turn serves as a source of infra-red rays. By means of mirrors these rays are focussed into beams the thickness of a finger. The laser differs from its US predecessors in that every component has been simplified as far as possible without a decrease in radiation quality and more precise and cheaper solutions have been found for certain intricate processes.

Tax advice

A personal tax-compliance system designed for use by accountants and professional tax advisers has been launched by Datasolve. Taxpoint will run on most common 16-bit microcomputers and requires a minimum memory size of 256K. It will generate letters for tax advisers to request information for example to a building society, or bank manager, will store the resulting data, compute taxable liabilities and benefits, produce an overall assessment for the

client and print a substitute return for the Inland Revenue. The system can also advise on where or not certain options should be taken - for example a spouse's earned-income election - and also allows what-if type calculations.

UK events

Texas Instruments Owners Convention, Ritz, Manchester, Saturday
Schools Computer Fair, Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, London WC1, November 6-7
Yorkshire Business Computer Fair, Pembroke Halls, Manchester, November 7-8
Scottish Home Computer and Electronics Show, Anderson Centre, Glasgow, November 9-11
COMFEC, Olympia, London, November 13-16
School Computer Fair, Pembroke Halls, Manchester, November 14-15
Artificial Intelligence Seminar, Middlesex Polytechnic, London, November 17-18
2X Microfair, Alexandra Palace, London N22, November 17-18
Hardware Business Computer Fair, Gardens, Cleeve, November 18

Overseas

Australian Computer Exhibition, Sydney, November 1-5
COMDEX Las Vegas, November 14-18
Videotex Europe Exhibition & Conference, Amsterdam, November 20-22
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High-tech systems may get backing

By Madeleine Dyer

The Industrial Technology Fund, a recently-launched business expansion scheme exclusively for industrial high-tech concerns, is considering two innovative companies with high-growth potential for financial support.

Sir Monty Finniston, 72, chairman of Industrial Technology Securities, the company set up to manage the fund, said last week that it is looking at a company which designs, develops and manufactures instruments to measure units of light to an accuracy of one-millionth of a second for application in military and civil fields.

A second company, which has pioneered a technique to develop photographic film onto a hard surface like a tile, for example, is also earmarked as a likely investee company; the fund is seeking "six or seven" such companies in all. "These are two very different examples of the kind of companies we are looking at," said Sir Monty. The fund is to invest in established or young high-tech companies seeking capital for expansion. Eligible individual investors buy shares from the fund which then spreads the investment over at least five of the chosen companies, thereby spreading the risk.

Selected companies must also submit themselves to rigorous scrutiny of the fund's management team, based in technology and commerce.

Although not expecting to be called in to manage companies on a day-to-day basis, the team can provide regular "hands-on" experience in running the companies if needed. It expects to appoint non-executive directors to chosen companies and demands regular progress reports for constant monitoring. "All key personnel are, insured, a factor vital to success," says John Bennett, fund member who is also an active industrialist in the Birmingham area.

Chosen companies must wait until all the money from investors is received; the end-of-October deadline is likely to be extended to account for this. The fund is obliged to invest all the money by the end of the year. Stockbrokers' Northcote & Co will carry out the fund's transactions until it receives a licence to deal in securities.

Software sales are rising as the market research predicted

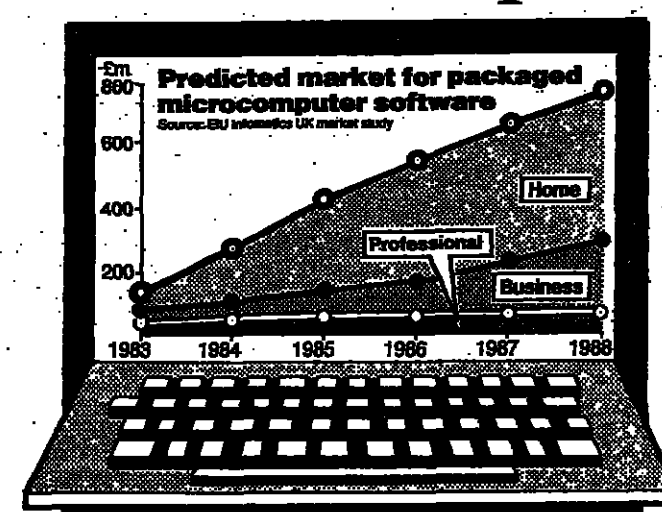
By David Raven

The sales of microcomputer software are reported to be rising in line with market-research projections, but few software publishers appear to be actually increasing their net profits.

A study of software publishing will probably lead to a conclusion that it is an expanding market with great profit potential hence the large sums of government aid and venture capital being made available to invest into software projects. Market research consultants are predicting a sustained growth in software sales volume of about 40 per cent a year between 1983 and 1988.

Unfortunately, few market research companies offer any prediction for the likely net income for software publishers as net income will be determined by each company's gross margins, overheads and future development plans.

The US is acknowledged as a more mature market for software and financial statistics published in the American newsletter, *Software Publishing Report*, show that though sales increased for 27 American software companies in the second quarter of 1984 by some 38% profit margins dropped sharply. Worse hit were eight publicly owned software companies who reported a 49 per cent drop in profits even though their turnover rose by 32 per cent. This disturbing news is



not only affecting home computer games software producers who have had a difficult time this year in the UK, but the profits decline has hit really big names in the microcomputer business software sector.

MicroPro International, publishers of possibly the best known wordprocessing package, Wordstar, filed a \$756,000 (£620,000) loss in the quarter ended August 31 as sales dropped 21 per cent to \$15.6m.

While software publishers are finding it difficult to maintain sufficient net margins, other related areas seem equally prone. Disc manufacturers reported a 36 per cent increase in sales but a 136 per cent profit reduction for the second quarter of 1984.

One particular company Lotus Development, producers of spreadsheet software 1-2-3 and lately Symphony seem relatively unaffected at present, having produced a 347% net increase in income compared to the second quarter of 1983.

It will be interesting to compare this company's results at the same time next year when full account is taken of the higher overheads incurred by Lotus expanding into international markets.

The enormous success of Lotus in a relatively short time, must be in part due to the high publicity-profile which the company has managed to

maintain resulting in a very strong brand image for its products. This method of selling professional software is likely to be all important for successful marketing direct to the general public.

Dixons believes it has identified a major market for professional/business micros and claim turnover in this sector will be as significant as home computers within the next twelve months. Given the choice, software companies will sell right product and a brand name will perform better than say a company with a good software product which the man and woman in the street has never heard of. Consumer awareness of hardware company names is far higher.

Few customers actually enter a retail store and ask for a software package by its brand name referring to it as a database or wordprocessing package etc.

To overcome low-brand-name awareness will require more direct marketing to the end-user and possibly less to specialist dealers. Retailers, dealers and software publishers will have to continue to find ways of providing support.

Many of the professional and business packages which are popular still require comprehensive training, particularly databases and accounts software, before they can be used to their full potential. The solution will be software which is very easy to use.

Why is there such a gap between computer prices?

Presumably the work you wish to do on your proposed machines has some value to your business. No processing is free, or even cheap, but it is possible to see a proper return for your money on business purchases of all kinds. The foolish talk you refer to simply reflects the fact that the investments that have to be made to do a job in 1984 are rather smaller in total than in earlier years.

The wide range of the quotations leads me to guess that you may have specified your needs in a general fashion.

There is a big difference in cost between basic personal computer systems and those generally proposed for business use. Once your business comes to rely on a computer system there are considerations of reliability and auditability to take into account.

I am unsure about the dealers not bothering to find out about your computer experience. It could be they expect everybody to have some and it could be that they are just too arrogant to care.

Q: Is it worth paying a lot extra for a higher performance network to link personal computers in our buildings?

A: The best performance level for a network is related to the reasons for creating the linkages in the first place. If the main reason is to share some expensive central filing store and maybe a high performance printer then the required performance can be estimated pretty closely. However, it may happen that one of the main reasons for creating the network is to provide room for expansion and the extension of computing power.

Remember that a network also helps to keep older systems productive and yet enable newer systems to be installed alongside. So the cost of conversions that are avoided via networking can be offset against its costs. The decision to go into networking is often a way of dealing with future unknowns.

Q: I have used an Apple for some three years now. My small business needs another machine and I am thinking of buying an Apple IIc. Two dealers contacted have both advised me to switch to an IBM PC compatible machine. Is the extra cost justified?

A: If you have used an Apple for three years it must be a hard decision to make. The Apple IIc is a very neat machine to use on a desk. I am sure you realize that it cannot be expanded and

transformed in the same way as the Apple IIc. However, I suppose that lots of good software is being produced for the IBM PC market and that access to this software is likely to be important to you in the long run.

There is no reason to believe that Apple will vanish from the computer supply scene in a hurry, although the firm is facing very stiff competition since IBM entered the market.

As the Apple IIc is a low cost answer to your problems now I would stick to my original plan if you are just going to do more of what you have done already. However, if you intend to do very many new jobs on the extra machine then you should weigh up the dealer advice rather carefully. Many items of special hardware as well as software are becoming available for the IBM PC market and this may also be a significant advantage over the next three years.

Q: Software for keeping general files and for revealing what is in them seems to be called database software. What should I look for in selecting one for personal use?

A: You do not say whether you already have a personal computer. If you use a machine and intend to use database software on it then this may immediately narrow down the field. There are well over 100 pieces of software on the market carrying database related titles, but it is important to bear in mind the use you will make of data entered into a database.

You may not have too clear an idea of exactly how you will use data. Should this be the case then you need what is known as a relational database because these do not demand that you make hard and fast decisions about final use of data at the time you put it there in the first place. All luxuries have to be paid for and in this case the penalty is sometimes a rather slow speed when producing reports.

If you know quite a bit about how you propose regularly to use the data then you may be able to select a piece of software that works faster on the run of the mill stuff. It will do this by establishing fixed connections between files. The penalty in this instance is that unusual reports may be rather difficult to obtain and require several

steps in a processing chain before you get the answers you want. Many of the widely used database packages were built to use early personal computers.

If you are starting from scratch, therefore, it pays to buy a package which is used to make good use of one of the new, more powerful, personal computers.

Q: My firm's experience of training staff in word processing methods has been a depressing one. In London it seems that they are continually being lured away to jobs with firms that cannot be bothered to train. Will this sorry state persist for much longer?

A: The London area is something of a special case. Travel problems for staff create recruitment opportunities, for instance, for those firms that are sited in especially accessible places. Some firms that find themselves so placed then proceed to exploit this situation.

On their side of the fence the argument runs that they have paid premium prices for their office space and are entitled to gather skilled staff who wish to ease their own problems. This is just one example of the factors that make for a fluidity in the jobs market for skills in office operations and it has a disproportionate influence in the London region.

The question that is probably uppermost in your mind relates to the possibility of making word processing easier to learn.

It follows from this that operators who can use all the features of this software will be especially valuable in those jobs that need to exploit these supercharged features. So some firms will continue to poach staff with this experience if they need them urgently.

Q: I have read recently of 'the Turing Test' as a measure of success in artificial intelligence. Could you tell me what this test is all about?

A: The Turing Test derives its name from Alan Turing, a computing pioneer in Britain during the Second World War. He suggested a test based on the notion that if a person interacting with a computer was unable to tell the difference between such a dialogue and a conversation between two people, then the machine could be claimed to be acting 'intelligently'.

Unfortunately, the superficial nature of human dialogues, in many instances, makes this test a poor one. The joke among computer specialists is that many people 'fail the Turing Test' that is to say, they leave you in some doubt as to their humanity.

It is still true, however, that when computers can be equated in behavioural terms with experience shared between people, then 'true' artificial intelligence might be claimed. This leaves open the question as to whether experience can be shared with a machine.

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Quote Ref. MCM/T

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Quote Ref. UGT

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Digitus

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Quote Ref. CEM/T

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BBC 1

- 6.00** *Comic Relief*.
6.30 *Headline News* with Frank Borman and Sheila Scott. News from Debbie Fitz at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.55; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.38 and 8.11. Plus Alan Titchmarsh's gardening tips and Glynis Christian's cookery advice.
9.00 *Studio of the Planets*, cartoon science fiction series.
9.30 *Mastermind* on University College, Cardiff. Angela Buxton's specialist subject is history of costume since 1400; Jane Gardner answers questions on the epic novels of R.F. Oakes; Byron Jones on the life and works of Duke Ellington; and Derek Phelan on the life and works of John Keats (p. 93).
10.30 *Play School*, presented by Kate Copstick. 10.50 *Cartoon*.
12.30 *News After Noon* with Moira Stuart and Frances Goodall. The weather prospects come from Michael Fish. 12.57 *Regional News* (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
1.30 *Pebble Mill at One* including a forum on Schools and Schoolchildren and a song or two from American singer Tom Paxton. 1.45 *Hokey Hokey*. A See-Saw programme for the very young.
2.00 *Championship Bowling*. David Vine introduces coverage of second round matches in the CIS Insurance United Kingdom Indoor Bowls Championship, from the Guild Hall, Preston. 2.45 *Regional News* (not London).
3.30 *Play School*, presented by Brian Jameson. 4.10 *Wacky Races* cartoon series (p. 42).
4.30 *Best Teacher*. Inter-school quiz. 4.35 *Barbedwire*. Episode four of the comedy series about a group of friendly ghosts. 5.00 *John Craven's Newsround*.
5.10 *Star Trek*. The unthinkable has happened: Kirk has been accused of cowardice following the death of one of his officers (p. 55).
6.00 *News* with Nicholas Whitely and Jeremy Pezman.
6.30 *London Plus*.
6.55 *The Diabetic Nurse*. Romance is in the air for Megan Roberts, who she is killed by David Price, but it turns out after David's death that he was the villain of the new film, *Dr. Barley* (see Choice).
7.25 *The Family Life* presented by Esther Rantzen and Dr. Richard Smith. A magazine programme about the joys and frustrations of family life.
8.10 *Cagney and Lacey*. Personal problems for Christine Cagney when she and her partner, Mary Beth Lacey, are assigned to the narcotics squad which is headed by...
9.00 *News* with Julia Somerville.
9.25 *The Code of Treachery*. A documentary that tells the inside story of an Anglo-American plan to subvert the government in Albania in 1949 and how the plan failed because, as it was later discovered, of the treachery of Kim Philby. The narrator is Ian Hay (see Choice).
10.15 *Siskin* or *Siskin*. Comedy series about two brothers (p. 104).
10.45 *Charm School*. Charm school. Miss Raynor examines the problem of incest and talks to some of its victims and learns of the incest crisis line.
11.10 *Late Night in Concert*. The African trumpet player Hugh Masikela performing at the SOA's Club in New York.
11.43 *News* headlines weather.

TV-am

- 6.25** *Good Morning Britain*, presented by Anna Diamond and Harry Kelly. News with Joyce Irving at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.50 and 7.37; guests Andy Williams and Tommy Boyd at 6.45; exercises at 6.46 and 7.37; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; pop at 7.54; Eve Pollard in conversation with Rocco Welch from 8.15; Rustie Lee prepares a Christmas cake at 8.45; 9.02 *Rolling Rat*.
ITV/LONDON
1.40 *News* headlines followed by *The Old Couple* (1958) starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Delightful comedy, adapted for the big screen by the author, Neil Simon, about a divorced newsreader for whom widowhood is a form of religion, who, when his marriage is finished, moves to the apartment of his sports commentator friend to whom widowhood is anathema. Their constant bickering is a delight. Directed by Gene Seidman.
3.30 *News* headlines followed by *The Young Doctors*, a drama series about the patients and staff of an Australian hospital.
4.00 *Relaxation*. Learning made fun with puppets (p. 1).
4.15 *Chorlton and the Wheelies* (p. 1).
4.30 *The Scooby Show* with Matthew Corbett (p. 1).
4.45 *Dangerous*. Animated adventures of a secret service robot and his faithful faithful assistant, Penfold. Together they strive to rid the world of the evil Baron Greenback (p. 1).
5.00 *The Coral Island*. Episode two of the adventure series for children.
5.30 *Botanic Man*. Professor David Bellamy enthusiastically explains the secrets of flora and fauna (p. 1).
6.00 *News* headlines followed by *Diff'rent Strokes*. Comedy series about a millionaire and his adopted family.
6.30 *Keep It in the Family*. Domestic comedy series about an artist's family (p. 1).
7.00 *Carry on Laughing*. Excerpts from the funniest scenes in the Carry On series of films.
7.30 *Give Us a Clue*. Celebrity mine game presented by Michael Parkinson. One of the team consists of Lynda Baron, Stephanie Beacham and Anne Diamond. Phil has on his side Sammy Kahn, Nick Owen and Bernie Winters.
8.00 *News* headlines followed by *Dee O'Connor Tonight*. Comedy, music, and conversation plus a song or two from the host.
9.00 *The Bill*. More hectic cases for the policemen and women stationed at Sun Hill in east London. Incident assault on a young girl in the top case tonight but there is other trouble in the form of a young man who is beaten up by three youths in the life of a block of council flats. Elsewhere, there is a brother who wants the police to investigate the assault because they want to deal with it in their own way. On a more positive note, PC Carver enlists the help of his fellow officers in an attempt to re-open a local Youth Club (Oracle).
10.00 *News* headlines followed by *Shelley*. Another episode from the life of one of Nature's layabouts, determined to live off the state despite family commitments.
10.30 *Class of '82*. An entertaining highlight about a group of old school friends who haven't met since they left school. How life has worked out for them makes fascinating viewing (p. 1).
11.25 *Night Thoughts*.



Ellen Burstyn as Jean Harris: Channel 4, 9.00pm.

King Zog of Albania - the only head of state ever to die in the gutter and the last at a would-be assassin - sounds like a character from an Irving Berlin opera. Kim Philby clearly doesn't but both were involved - one the pawn, the other the mark - in the murky-shrouded Albanian Operation of 1948. THE COST OF TREASON (BBC 1, 9.25pm) explains: With East-West relations on the furthestmost shelf of the fridge, MBE and the CIA chose Albania, the smallest Soviet state, as a bench test for their attempts at counter-revolution. Destabilizing agents would be dropped into the country, precipitating the return of the exiled Zog. Enter, stage left, Kim Philby: through his last, the operation lost its element of surprise, and with it, hundreds of agents, shot on arrival. The air of a fairy tale with

CHOICE

real corpses is compounded by the presence of a British agent named Smiley. Adam Curtis's splendid account is a fastidiously objective. As a distance, verifiability and deniability that once read trinity: Philby, Burgess and Maclean the semi-significant ring of football team, the programme emphasises the wages of treachery is death, usually other people's. Yet, like SOE, it hints at the cavalier consciences of some western intelligence chiefs for whom the death of men was a hiccup between courses of a long-planned military banquet. Jean Harris, Steve Biko and Richard III are odd bedfellows but Channel 4 this week tucks them

beneath the blanket concept of a trilogy of trial reconstructions. Tonight a 3-hour American film based on transcripts: PEOPLE vs JEAN HARRIS (9.00pm). Did headmistress Miss Harris (Ellen Burstyn) murder her ex-lover Herman Tarnower, creator of the Scaresdale Diet? Given that we know the verdict and sentence - "guilty" and 15 years - the point of the film is, presumably, to put a legal system in the dock. If so, the bald-headed eagle should blanch at this evidence of a system in which innocence and guilt seem side-by-side in a courtroom and where the jury's verdict appears not so much the truth as an Oscar for best performance.

Mark Lawson

BBC 2

- 9.00** *Daytime on Two*. Jonathan Dimbleby offers his interpretation of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. 9.25 *The Rise of Hitler* during the years 1933-36. 9.45 *Metres*: angles. 10.10 *Part six* of *Badger Girl*. 10.35 *The Farming Year* in the United States. 11.00 *Microcomputer* in a primary school. 11.17 *Poetry* and pop. 11.40 *Working in a mail order firm*.
12.00 *The French language version* of the Year of the French profile of the enterprising Luc Doublet. 12.50 *Will it be possible to create a man-made human?* 1.00 *Metres* for adults studying for their levels. 1.15 *Sound used as an example* of waves. 1.38 *Customs and celebrations*: Halloween. 2.00 *You and Mr. For the very young*. 2.15 *How the demand for timber affects the landscape*. 2.40 *The technology needed to go uphill*.
3.00 *Dallas*. Cliff Barnes is looking for someone to lend him a mere 250 million dollars to help him close the off-shore deal while J.R.'s decision to find Peter a job at Southfork upsets Sue Ellen (p. 1).
3.45 *Championship Bowling*. David Vine introduces coverage of second round matches in the CIS Insurance United Kingdom Indoor Bowls Championship.
5.25 *News* summaries with subtitles.
5.30 *Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In*. Poultry American comedy show with guests Carol Channing and Goldie Hawn (p. 1).
6.00 *The Rockford Files*. Jim's admirable trait of being faithful to his friends lands him in a spot of trouble when an old army mate turns up at the trailer down on his luck. Jim decides to take him in as an apprentice private eye (p. 1).
6.50 *Championship Bowls*. Further coverage of the CIS Insurance United Kingdom Indoor Bowls Championship.
7.30 *Whistle Test* includes an interview with Bruce Springsteen, recorded during a concert in Philadelphia.
8.30 *Top Gear* from the Hendon Police College where police drivers are put through their paces in "barndash" practice. Elsewhere, there is a brother who wants the police to investigate the assault because they want to deal with it in their own way. On a more positive note, PC Carver enlists the help of his fellow officers in an attempt to re-open a local Youth Club (Oracle).
9.00 *Film: American Hot Wax* (1978) starring Tim McIntire. The first showing on British television for this story of the legendary New York disc jockey, Alan Freed, who, adored by the young, disappeared to parents, the police and federal agents. Directed by Floyd Mutrux.
10.30 *Championship Bowls*. Highlights of this evening's matches from the Guild Hall, Preston.
11.00 *Newsnight*.
11.45 *Championship Bowls*. More highlights. Ends at 12.15.
12.10 *Closedown*.

CHANNEL 4

- 2.30** *Film: A Bill of Divorcement* (1932) starring John Barrymore and Katharine Hepburn. Miss Hepburn makes her film debut as Sydney Fairhead, reunited with her First World War shell-shocked father who has escaped from an asylum when he learns that his wife has divorced him and intends to marry. Directed by George Cukor.
3.45 *News Ahead*. Magazine programme for the older viewer, presented by Robert Douglas. In this afternoon's edition there are items on home help who are faced with a rapid growth in the numbers of elderly frail living at home and the challenge of a more specialized domiciliary care; and on vanity publishing, now that the country's largest firm specializing in this sort of business, New Horizon, has collapsed.
4.30 *Comedian*. Yesterday's winner of the unscripted mental arithmetic competition is challenged by Sarah Hadaway, a solicitor from Weston.
5.00 *The Human Jungle*. Fine Footage's Psychiatricist Queen of Science (Herbert Com) patient is a young wife who finds herself in debt after living beyond her means. She has had her unsuspecting husband that she is the daughter of a landed gentry, but in fact her parents are servants living on a country estate.
6.00 *The Mississippi*. The get-away-from-it lawyer, Ben Walker, is hired to defend an accused murderer. He discovers that his client is an embittered man and that his victim was a Nazi trying to cover his tracks.
7.00 *Channel Four News* with Peter Sissons.
7.50 *Comment*. With his thoughts on a major of topical interest in Lord Ennals.
8.00 *Brookside*. While the party is in full swing at the nursing home, MacArchie with two heavy-lifters into the tool hire shop.
8.40 *A Woman's Worth*. Consumer. (This programme will be changed if the television dispute is not settled.)
9.00 *Film: People vs Jean Harris* (1981) starring Ellen Burstyn. A made-for-television drama based on the real-life case of Jean Harris, the headmistress of a small school in the United States who was sentenced to 15 years to life for the murder of her lover of 15 years, cardiologist Herman Tarnower, the author of the *Scaresdale Diet*. Directed by George Schaefer (see Choice).
11.45 *Here and Now on Four*. The second programme in the series profiles 71-year-old Chinese Englishman, Kenneth Lo. He talks to Hilary Minter about his childhood in the medieval city of Funchow and of the 50 years he has lived in England.
12.10 *Closedown*.

Radio 4

- On long wave**, 1 denotes stereo or VHF.
5.55 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.59 *News*. 6.10 *Forecast*. 6.12 *Forecast*. 6.14 *Forecast*. 6.16 *Forecast*. 6.18 *Forecast*. 6.20 *Forecast*. 6.22 *Forecast*. 6.24 *Forecast*. 6.26 *Forecast*. 6.28 *Forecast*. 6.30 *Forecast*. 6.32 *Forecast*. 6.34 *Forecast*. 6.36 *Forecast*. 6.38 *Forecast*. 6.40 *Forecast*. 6.42 *Forecast*. 6.44 *Forecast*. 6.46 *Forecast*. 6.48 *Forecast*. 6.50 *Forecast*. 6.52 *Forecast*. 6.54 *Forecast*. 6.56 *Forecast*. 6.58 *Forecast*. 7.00 *Forecast*. 7.02 *Forecast*. 7.04 *Forecast*. 7.06 *Forecast*. 7.08 *Forecast*. 7.10 *Forecast*. 7.12 *Forecast*. 7.14 *Forecast*. 7.16 *Forecast*. 7.18 *Forecast*. 7.20 *Forecast*. 7.22 *Forecast*. 7.24 *Forecast*. 7.26 *Forecast*. 7.28 *Forecast*. 7.30 *Forecast*. 7.32 *Forecast*. 7.34 *Forecast*. 7.36 *Forecast*. 7.38 *Forecast*. 7.40 *Forecast*. 7.42 *Forecast*. 7.44 *Forecast*. 7.46 *Forecast*. 7.48 *Forecast*. 7.50 *Forecast*. 7.52 *Forecast*. 7.54 *Forecast*. 7.56 *Forecast*. 7.58 *Forecast*. 8.00 *Forecast*. 8.02 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